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THE MEMOIRS OF THE TOWN AND COUNTY OF LEICESTER:

Displayed under an EPITOME of the Reign of each Sovereign in the ENGLISH HISTORY:

Containing, The ANTIQUITIES of each, and the HISTORICAL and BIOGRAPHICAL RELATIONS at Large.

To which is added,

A Brief Supplimentary Account of the present ſtate of LEICESTERSHIRE.

BY JOHN THROSBY.

" Solicit not thy thoughts with matters hid,
" ——— Heaven is for thee too high
" To know what paſſes there; be lowly wiſe.
" ——— ——— ——— aſk
" How firſt this world and face of things began,
" And what before thy memory, was done."
MILTON.

VOL. III.

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29

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

THE

CONTENTS

Of the THIRD VOLUME.

CHAP. 16.

HENRY 4th.——Merſton.——Walter Baldock.——St. Martin's Church, Leiceſter.

CHAP. 17.

Henry 5th.——Parliament holden in Leiceſter.——Lord Cobham.

CHAP. 18.

Henry 6th.——St. Margaret's Church, Leiceſter.——Leiceſter-Caſtle.——Sir Nicholas Burdet.——Beaumont.

CHAP. 19.

h*Edward 4th.——Sir William Haſtings. Aſhby*

Aſhby-de-la-zouch.—Kirby, near Leiceſter-Foreſt.——Whitwick.——Thomas Burdet, Eſq.——William Heriot.

CHAP. 20.

Edward 5th.——Robert Belleſdon.

CHAP. 21.

Richard 3d.—Herdewick.——Boſworth. Digby.——A fatal Sickneſs.

CHAP. 22.

Henry 7th.—— Black-Friars, &c.

CHAP. 23.

Henry 8th.——Wolſey.——Leiceſter-Abby.——Drayton.—— Fitzherbert.—— Turpin.——Coal-Orton.——Lubſthorp.

THE

MEMOIRS OF THE TOWN and COUNTY OF LEICESTER, &c.

CHAP. 16.

Henry IVth.—Marſton.—Walter Baldock.—St. Martin's Church, Leiceſter.

HENRY IV.

HIS reign was a continued ſeries of troubles: as he was a uſurper he lived in fear of being dethroned by the advocates of the houſe of York, who made ſeveral attempts in its favour. He was wonderfully delivered from a deep-laid deſign to aſſaſſinate him, the failure of which brought deſtruction to ſome nobles concerned in that plot. The ſucceeding year another

CHAP 16.

1400.

CHAP. 16. ther ſcheme was contrived to deprive him of life, but was fortunately diſcovered. Next the earl of Northumberland raiſed a rebellion intending to dethrone him, which did not ſucceed. Alſo the archbiſhop of York formed an attempt to dethrone him, but he was ſeized and was beheaded with ſome other lords. *a* Henry died in the forty-ſeventh year of his age. *b*

1413

MERSTON.

a About two years after this a terrible plague raged in London, which took off 30,000 of its inhabitants.

b If we allow for the failings of human nature, ſome little palliation for the vices of this king will appear; for he was led into abhorrent crimes from a train of incidents which ſeems to have ſeduced his virtue. He had many qualities that would have fitted him for a crown, had it been obtained by legal means. The regard he ſhewed for the liberties of his people rendered his uſurpation rather an advantage to poſterity.

MERSTON, CHAP. 16.

ONCE a conſiderable village in this county, commonly called Merſton-Potters, on account of pots being made here formerly, hiſtory informs us that it was depopulated in this reign, but the occaſion of it is not handed down to poſterity.

WALTER BALDOCK.

IN the year 1401, a rumour prevailed in England that the unfortunate Richard II. was alive, and had raiſed an army to expel the uſurper, Henry IV. from the throne, which made the diſaffected utter invectives againſt the king. This behaviour of his people provoked Henry to ſwear that he would never pardon the authors of theſe reports: Among others whom Henry put to death, on this occaſion, was Walter Baldock, the then prior of Laund,

CHAP. 16. Laund, in Leiceſterſhire, who was hanged with a franciſcan doctor in divinity.

St. MARTIN's

CHURCH, Leiceſter, is one of the largeſt, and eſteemed the principal church in Leiceſterſhire. Not only the Corporate aſſemblies, in Leiceſter, when convened in their official capacity on certain days, attend divine ſervice here, but alſo the Biſhop of the dioceſe, and the Judges of the Aſſize.

THIS Church, if it claim not equal antiquity with the venerable St. Nicholas's. in Leiceſter, yet it manifeſts the wounds of time. A partiality, perhaps, not marked with ingratitude, has enjoined me to notice its hiſtory more particularly than it may claim in theſe volumes, altho' its precedence rather

rather demands a circumſtantial de- CHAP. 16.
ſcription.

WHEN this church was firſt built I have not been able to learn; but it originally conſiſted of only three Iles, i. e. when it was rebuilt after the deſtruction of Leiceſter, in the reign of Henry II. for it is impoſſible to ſay in what poſition it was in before that time. Indeed ſome of the *ſtreets*, I am apt to think, took a different direction before that tremendous ſhock of vengeance. *c* The ſouth Ile, wherein the Conſiſtory Court is held, was an addition

c In ſupport of this opinion it may be neceſſary to obſerve, that in ſinking to make a cellar, laſt ſummer, in the High-ſtreet, there was found a remarkable ſtrong foundation, which took a direction right acroſs the ſtreet. This, Mr. Watts, the proprietor, cauſed the workman to trace, ſome way, ſubterraneouſly, for the purpoſe of getting the ſtones, which were large and valuable.

CHAP. 16. addition made to it ſome time after the church was built: The outer wall being taken down, and on nearly the ſame ground, whereon it ſtood, was erected that remarkable light range of cluſtered columns, which now ſupports the roof. It alſo appears, from an obſervation of Mr. Cart's, that the Chancel of this church was built, on ſome account, after the main fabric "In the Rentale," ſays that gentleman, "Novum fol. 206 f. 214 I find a me-"morandum Quod cancella St. Mar-"tini edificata fuit Ann. Dom. 1409 "et conſtabat 34l.

WITHIN this church there were formerly two Chapels, as appear by the accounts of the churchwardens, which, to the credit of the pariſh, are now well preſerved, ſo long back as A. D. 1544. I have ſeen, in two or three

three places, in the firſt folio of theſe accounts, charges for repairing the chapel; and in one place, in the payments for A. D. 1544, "Payd to the plumar for a dais worc on our Lady Chappell;" and in another place, a few years after, a charge for work done in St. George's Chapel. The former was at the eaſt end of the ſouth broad Ile, and the latter at the weſt end of the ſame, where ſtood St. George's horſe harneſſed in the church ſplendour of thoſe times. There were alſo three Alters in this church before the diſſolution: The High-Altar, St. Dunſtan's, and St. Catharine's; and, I am apprehenſive, the two laſt ſtood, one in what is now called Herrick's-chancel, and the other near the entrance into the veſtry. CHAP. 16.

From this church, there was a pro-

CHAP. 16. ceſſion to St. Margaret's Church on Whitſun-Monday, ſomething ſimilar to what has been related of St. Mary's. The image of St. Martin was ſupported thither by twelve perſons repreſenting the twelve apoſtles: twelve banners were alſo diſplayed in the proceſſion, but there were no muſic, as in that from St. Mary's, nor any canopy over the figurative ſaint. There was ſomething ſimilar to this from all the other Churches in Leiceſter, to that peculiar Church, St. Margaret's, but in a leſs degree magnificent, than the proceſſions from St. Mary's and St. Martin's.

But "The Riding of St. George," as it was then called, was the grandeſt ſolemnity of the town, The Gild of St. George was in this church. The maſter of this Gild, annually gave public

public notice to the inhabitants at large, of the day appointed for this pleaſurable amuſement. There is an expreſs order, in an old Hall Book, made at a Common-Hall the 17th of Edward IV. which enjoins all the inhabitants, by general Summons, to attend the Mayor, *to ride againſt the king*, as it is expreſſed, *or for riding the George* or *any other thing to the pleaſure of the Mayor and worſhip of the Town*. This day was a day of great feſtivity and rejoicing; the amuſement was of an heterogeneal kind: military ſports were the foremoſt pleaſures of the day. CHAP. 16.

AMID' theſe ſcenes of chivalry the encircling friends of the victor failed not to announce the conqueſt by the loudeſt ſhouts of applauſe. But this like other exhibitions of contention,

CHAP. 16. often produced the bickerings of diſappointment, to ſubdue which the honoured chieftain was compelled to leave his ſeat for pleaſure to iſſue the ſtern mandates of his official power.

In the 14th of Henry VII. it was ordered, that every one of the forty-eight, of the Corporation, ſhould contribute towards the ſupport of St. George's Gild; thoſe who had been chamberlains ſix-pence, and the other four-pence each annually. The aldermen, we muſt infer, from this, were contributors before to this Gild. In the 15th of Henry VIII. the Maſter of the Gild, having neglected to notice this annual cuſtom, an order was made which ſubjected him to a fine of five pounds, in default of appointing a day, according to ancient cuſtom, between St. George's day and Whitſunday.

In

CHAP. 16.

IN this Church was alſo founded the Corpus Chriſti Guild, which was the ancienteſt and moſt principal Guild in Leiceſter. *d* To all public charges this Guild contributed largely, ſuch as charters, &c. There were two Maſters preſided over it, who had great intereſt in the Corporation of Leiceſter. They had power, in conjunction with the Mayor, to inflict penalties upon the members of the Corporation for miſconduct; and upon the Mayor's neglect to obtain theſe penalties, they had the power to levy them upon him.

THERE was alſo a Chantry founded in this Church, by Licence, the 23d

d See Vol. 2d, page 13, 14.——I find by the accounts of the churchwardens for 1544, that the burials in this church were diſtinguiſhed by "Obbytts of the gylde," and "Other Obbytts.

CHAP. 16. of Edward III. the 16th of Richard II. and the 2d of Henry IV. to which there belonged four Chantry prieſts, who were appointed by the Maſter of the Gild and the Churchwardens for the time being; but the eligibility of their choice was ſubmitted to the Abbot of Leiceſter Monaſtery, before they were admitted. *e*

To the High-Altar, of this Church, there was a fine regular range of ſteps which lead to it; but in the puritanic times, when a remnant of the conſtitution, iſſued their mandates from the ſeat of their uſurpation, an order was given for the deſtruction of every thing

e Altho' I have ſeen, in a book of the liſt of the Mayors, mention made of this Church being burnt, in 1556, yet I can diſcover nothing from the pariſh books, that ſhews it was a fire of very material conſequence.

thing in the churches which bore the most distant semblance to the religion of Rome. Among other things these steps were ordered to be removed, as appears by the following charge, which I have copied from the accounts of Robert Blount and Phillip Man, Churchwardens, for the year 1645. CHAP. 16.

"Paid William Hastwell, Mason,
"according to his bill for takeing
"downe the steppes Leadinge to the
"Comunion table apointed to bee ta-
"ken downe by an Ordinance of the
"Lords and Comons in Parliament,
"and for Leivenige downe many
"graues which weare taken up att the
"burienge of Several great officers of
"the kinges Army which was slaine
"at the stormeinge of the towne——
3l.

CHAP. 16. "31. 17s. 0d."*f*

THE ſame parliament which confirmed Henry VIII. ſupreme Head of the Church 1534, made, in its ſixth ſtatute, proviſion for 25 Suffragan Biſhops; and one of the Towns, appointed for the Suffragan See, being Leiceſter, his Court was held in this Church.*g* The Archdeaconry Court of Leiceſter alſo continues to be held here.

IN

f Theſe Officers, I apprehend, were buried in the Church, as there is another charge in the ſame year's accounts paid to Wm. Haſtwell for levelling down graves, which I take to be ſome in the church-yard, where the common ſoldiers were buried, who were ſlain in the ſtreets, market-place, and church-yard, at that ſiege.---See the article *Siege of Leiceſter* under Charles I. reign.

g He was to depend on his Dioceſan, who was to preſent two to the King for him to make choice of one.

CHAP. 16.

In 1705 there were ſpacious Galleries erected in this Church, for young people, there being before that time, only a loft at the weſt end of it, called the *Scholars-Loft*: and nearly at the ſame time the Church was handſomely pewed.-At the eaſt end of the middle Ile was formerly a ſmall Organ, which, in 1754, was repaired and ornamented with a new Caſe, and placed at the weſt end of the ſame Ile. But this alteration not being found adequate to the wiſhes of the pariſhioners, ſome attempts were afterwards made to obtain a new one, but without effect. At laſt however, in the year 1773, ſome very favourable circumſtances happened, which conſpired to crown the wiſhes of thoſe, who were warm advocates for having the ſervice of

CHAP. 26. GOD performed, agreeable to their ideas of its dignity.

A ſpirited ſubſcription, for this purpoſe, was ſet on foot by the Corporation of Leiceſter, and ſeveral Individuals of the pariſh, aided by the warm efforts of the then Churchwarden, Mr. Wm. Cart, who by his aſſiduity, in this buſineſs, obtained of the Nobility and Gentry, in the neighbourhood, ſome very liberal ſubſcriptions. *b* When a ſufficient ſum was raiſed, an agreement was made with Mr. Snetzler, an Organ-builder of great repute, in his profeſſion, who articled

b Among the principal ſums obtained were 80l. the Corporation, 35l. the Marquis of Grandby, 21l. Earl of Denbeigh, 20l. Earl of Stamford, and 20 Guineas, Joſeph Cradock, Eſq; of Leiceſter.

articled to complete an Organ agree-CHAP. 16.
able to the conditions ſpecified, by Sept. 1774, to be opened at the anniverſary of the Leiceſter-Infirmary. The Organ being finiſhed according to agreement was opened September 21ſt, 1774, to a brilliant and extremely reſpectable aſſembly. The band of muſicians, which accompanied it, that day, had a temporary loft erected which reached nearly half the way along the middle Ile; and theſe performers were honoured with the aſſiſtance of Ld. Sandwich, 1ſt Ld. of the Admiralty, upon the kettle-drums. *i*

THIS Organ is eſteemed a capital performance.

BUT

i Beſides moſt of the Nobility and Gentry of theſe parts, who were of the auditory Company, was *Omiah*, the famed native of *Otaheitee*, who was brought to England by that great adventurer Captain Cook, in the Reſolution,

CHAP. 16. BUT perhaps much is due to a worthy native of this pariſh, Joſeph Cradock, Eſq; of Gumbley, who, poſſeſſed of intereſt, kindly made uſe of it, on this occaſion, to have it inſpected, in almoſt every ſtage of its building, by the moſt qualified perſons. But let the following letter of thanks from the Subſcribers and pariſhioners aſſembled in the veſtry of St. Martin's, Oct. 27th, 1774, ſpeak the obligation.

(COPY.)

" To Joſeph Cradock, Eſqr. of
" *Gumbley, Leiceſterſhire.*

" Sir,

ſolution, who has repeatedly dared to circumnavigate the globe. —— The whole expenſe of this Organ, including every incidental charge, was 600l.

" Sir, CHAP. 16.

" WHEN ſo many perſons of the
" firſt Rank, as well as the moſt emi-
" nent muſicians aſſembled at our
" late Oratorio, have expreſſed their
" entire approbation of the New Or-
" gan built under your directions; it
" would be very ungrateful either in
" the pariſhioners or Subſcribers, not
" to acknowledge their obligation to
" You. They are ſenſible this noble
" Inſtrument owes much of its per-
" fection to Your ſuperintendency, as
" well as to the ſkill of Mr. Snetzler.
" Your diſtinguiſhed taſte for Muſic,
" Poetry; and polite Learning, have
" made You juſtly admired; but it is
" the application of theſe talents to
" the Glory of God and the good of
" Mankind (of both which You have
lately

CHAP. 16.

"lately given a noble example) that "makes You univerſally eſteemed.— "We are directed both by the Sub- "ſcribers and pariſhioners in Veſtry "aſſembled, to return You their ſin- "cere Thanks, for thus enabling "them to have the Service of the "Church performed in a manner "worthy of the occaſion.

"We beg leave to ſubſcribe ourſelves "(with the greateſt reſpect) Your "moſt humble ſervants,

"WILLIAM CART,
"EDWARD PRICE,
"WILLIAM WATTS.

"Churchwardens of St. Martin's, "Leiceſter."

THE living of St. Martin's was formerly a Rectory, but the time when it became a Vicarage I have not learnt.

CHAP.

CHAP. 17.

Henry V.——Parliament holden in Leiceſter.——Lord Cobham.

HENRY V.

ELDEST ſon of Henry IV. ſucceeded his father. He was a great enemy to the diſciples of Wickliff, who were, by this time, become exceedingly numerous, eſpecially in Leiceſterſhire and its vicinity. Henry invaded France, upon a claim he had to that crown, and gained the renowned victory of Agincourt. *j* The Scots afterwards 1431. 1415.

j This was one of the greateſt victories we meet with in hiſtory. Henry, a few days before this battle, found himſelf in the midſt of an enemy's country, during the ſevereſt ſeaſon of

CHAP. 17. terwards made a diverſion in favour of his enemies. He died in France, of a Bloody-Flux, in the thirty-fourth year of his age. *k*

PARLIAMENTS

of the year, at the head of a few troops who had been weakened by diſtemper and fatigue, and deſtitute of proviſion and accommodation neceſſary to keep his men from ſinking beneath the gloom of aggregate diſtreſs; and ſurrounded by a prodigious army amounting to one hundred thouſand fighting men; yet notwithſtanding, he, and his brave ſoldiers, who amounted to no more than 14 thouſand, rather than ſubmit themſelves priſoners to the diſhonour of their country, choſe the fatal alternative of dying in the field with the arms of England in their hands. But their efforts to ſave themſelves from the moſt imminent danger were crowned with ſuch glorious ſucceſs, that muſt long, very long, add luſtre to the annals of this Country.

k The heroic exploits of this Henry have been the pleaſing themes and panegyrics of hiſtorians. He poſſeſſed a heart open and generous,

PARLIAMENTS in LEICESTER. *l* CHAP. 17.

IN the ſecond year of this reign was holden a parliament in Leiceſter, adjourned from Weſtminſter, the 30th of April, where a ſevere act was paſſed againſt the followers of Wickliff's doctrine, declaring, "That ſuch as maintained the doctrine of John Wickliff, a divine, who had been Rector of Lutterworth, in Leiceſterſhire, (which was then much followed in thoſe parts, and was ſpreading into other parts of the kingdom) were hereticks and traitors, and being convicted ſhould be

nerous. He was a faſt friend to the church of Rome; and had a ſerious ſenſe of religion; although in his earlier life he had been rather diſſolute. He died recommending his ſoul to God.

l See the hiſtory of Leiceſter-Caſtle under the next reign.

CHAP. 17. hanged or burned." Alſo among other things it enacted that whoever read the ſcriptures in Engliſh, ſhould forfeit lands, chattle, goods and life, and be condemned as hereticks to God, enemies to the Crown, and traitors to the kingdom; that they ſhould not have the benefit of any ſanctuary; and that if they continued obſtinate, or relapſed after pardon, they ſhould firſt be hanged for treaſon againſt the king, and then be burned for hereſy againſt God.—In this parliament was meditated the reduction of France.

In 1421 another parliament was holden in Leiceſter, for the purpoſe of raiſing ſupplies for proſecuting the war in France. This parliament meeting the 2d of May readily confirmed the peace of Troye, ſo glorious to England

land. But in granting a subsidy, a fifteenth from the laity, and a tenth from the clergy, the king was told that the conquest of that country was likely to prove the ruin of England. This parliament suppressed one hundred and ten priories, whose inhabitants had spoken disrespectfully of the conquest of France. CHAP. 17.

LORD COBHAM.

It will not, I hope, be called a digression from our subject to speak of the sufferings of the noble lord here, as the doctrine he maintained, and the rigid law which deprived him of life, originated within the limits of Leicestershire.

Lord Cobham had been, sometime, an exile in Wales when that parliament

CHAP. 17. ment was called to perſecute the Lollards: *m* prior to which he had been frequently examined before the heads of the clergy touching his faith, where he always boldly manifeſted his belief in the goſpel of Chriſt uncorrupted with human inſtitutions. He alſo had expoſed the follies and had ſmiled at the tremendous threatenings of that church which he thought repugnant to the dictates of the Goſpel. This conduct raiſed the reſentment of Archbiſhop Chichely, who committed him cloſe priſoner to the Tower; whence he eſcaped and ſought refuge in a country unfriendly to him, Wales, traverſing that mountainous principality four years, diligently ſought after by his

m Thoſe who held the opinions of Wickliff were ſo called.

his enemies. Here, after ſuffering the keen anguiſh of complicated diſtreſs, he was re-taken and led to London in triumph, amidſt the ſanguine zealots of a church exulting at his impending danger. "Falſe zeal," ſays a royal Author, "is a tyrant that depopulates provinces: toleration is a tender Mother that makes them flouriſh." CHAP. 17.

THE Clergy, who now ſeemed to revel in the late enacted law at Leiceſter, ſet no bounds to their cruel diſpoſitions. The unfortunate Lord ſaw, as it were, his fate before it was publickly announced: it did not remain long in ſuſpence. He received ſentence of death, both as a traitor and an heretic. On the day of his execution he was taken from the Tower with his arms tied behind him, and

CHAP. 17. placed on an hurdle, and in that manner drawn into St. Giles' fields, enjoying all the way a very reſigned cheerful countenance. When taken from the hurdle he prayed devoutly, upon his knees, for God to forgive his enemies. After this he ſtood up and exhorted the people to the obſervance of God's laws, as delivered by the ſcriptures. He then ſubmitted to his almoſt unparalleled fate with the reſignation of a chriſtian hero. He was hung up by the middle with chains, on a new gallows, erected for that purpoſe; under which a fire was made to torture him by a lingering death. In this manner he hung, ſurrounded by an impious tribe of monks and prieſts, who iſſued forth curſes and imprecations while the noble victim was expiring

piring by the approaching flames.—Such were the ſufferings and end of the immortal Cobham!—and ſuch the horrid treatment he received from men who pretended to be the miniſters of the goſpel of Peace! CHAP. 17.

CHAP. 18.

CHAP. 18.

Henry VI.——St. Margaret's Church, Leiceſter.—Leiceſter-Caſtle.—St. Nicholas'.—Burdet.—Beaumont.

HENRY VI.

1422. AN Infant, of only ſix months old, obtained the crown on the death of his father. "The little hands," ſays the laborious Speed, "which "could not feed himſelf, were yet "made capable to weild a Sceptre; "and he that was beholden to nurſes "for milk, did, nevertheleſs, diſtri-"bute the ſuſtenance of law and juſtice "to ſo great and warlike nations."—His two uncles, men of abilities, were truſted with the government of France and England: Bedford held the regency of the former, and Glouceſter that

that of the latter. A very disagreeable quarrel happened in England, in the absence of the Duke of Bedford, who was prosecuting the war in France, between the duke of Glouceſter and cardinal Beaufort, the lord Chancellor. This contention reaching the ears of Bedford, he immediately ſet off for England. On his arrival he took every neceſſary ſtep to effect a reconciliation: after ſome fruitleſs attempts it was at laſt brought to paſs at Leiceſter, where a parliament was then ſitting.—Here the duke of Glouceſter, and the lord Chancellor, ſwore that they would bury in oblivion the very ſeeds of their quarrel, ſhook hands, and were made friends. CHAP. 8.

After this followed great acts of feſtivity and honour. The court continued

CHAP. 18. nued at Leiceſter for ſome time, where the young king, then about five years old, was Knighted, on the feaſt of pentecoſt, by the regent of France.— The young king likewiſe, at the ſame time, Knighted the earl of Cambridge, *n* and about forty other attendants on that parliament, which continued ſitting till the latter end of June, when the young king left that place with his tutor the earl of Warwick.

Henry was crowned king of France at Paris. The great heroine, maid of Orleans, who had performed amazing wonders againſt the Engliſh as a ſol-
1431. dier, was burnt alive the ſame year. *o* In

n He was alſo created Duke of York at Leiceſter.

o She was ſuppoſed to be poſſeſſed of ſuper-
natural

CHAP. 18.

In this reign Normandy was loſt; and ſoon after a dangerous rebellion was ſuppreſſed, headed by Jack Cade.—But the duke of York claiming the crown, raiſed an inſurrection, and made the king priſoner. The duke himſelf was killed ſoon after, but his ſon was more fortunate in his claim: he entered London, being ſupported by a powerful army, amidſt the acclamations of the citizens, and the next day was proclaimed king by the name of Edward IV. *p*

St.

natural powers. But being taken priſoner by the Burgundians, ſhe was purchaſed by the Engliſh, and to their eternal diſgrace, was condemned, to be burnt alive: which cruel ſentence was executed upon her in the market-place of Rouen.

p Henry VI. ſeemed fitted for an humble ſtation: but if he poſſeſſed none of thoſe requiſites

CHAP. 18. St. MARGARET's,

LEICESTER, is a ſpacious church, and although part of the preſent building is of no long ſtanding, yet I am perſuaded there was a church where the preſent ſtands, in the Saxon's time. In this church was founded the Guild of St. Margaret, to which a patent was granted the 16th of Richard II. This guild was exceeding rich and like Corpus Chriſti guild, in St. Martin's, contributed largely towards the public charges. To this church were ſolemn proceſſions from all the churches in Leiceſter on Whitſun-Monday: their paſſage thither was by the high-croſs, through the north-gate and along

ſites which are ſuited to the eminence of royalty, his innocence of life made him rather the object of compaſſion than contempt.

long *Sinvis-Gate*, a very broad ſtreet, where the proceſſions always ſtopped till they gained admittance into this church. CHAP. 18.

St. MARGARET's has been long a peculiar, having a ſpiritual-court, which ſuperintends the inordinacies of its own pariſh, in eccleſiaſtic matters. *q*

A. D. 1442, William Alnwick, biſhop of Lincoln, iſſued out a commiſſion to levy ſmoke farthings throughout

q It might be an unintereſting buſineſs, to the generality of my readers, to collect from the huge maſs of eccleſiaſtic matter, an account of ſuch peculiarities. We will therefore content ourſelves with obſerving that St. Margaret's, doubtleſs, received its firſt privileged exemption from the Saxon biſhops, who reſided near this church.

CHAP. 18. out the archdeaconry of Leiceſter, to rebuild part of the old church and ſteeple, which was gone to decay. Both within and without there are viſible marks remaining of this work: and what is particularly remarkable, the workmanſhip upon the gothic arches, in the middle Ile, are not uniform one ſide with the other.

On one ſide of the Altar, which is an indifferent painting of Moſes & Aaron, is a figure of a man, about 20 inches long, in a reclined poſture, under a niche, where was intended, I apprehend, or ſtood a ſtatue of one of the Lancaſter family; on the other ſide is alſo a niche, under which is a lion crouchant.—Near here is a loop-hool which goes into the veſtry, which was uſed at *confeſſion*, in the Romiſh times: the criminal being placed before the

altar close to this hole with an attend- CHAP. 18.
ant priest, who interrogated; by which means his responses were conveyed through it, into that room, where was another brother who took down, in writing, the particulars of what passed, unknown to him who was prostrate acknowledging his crimes, and laying open the secrets of his heart.

HERE was formerly a fine peal of six bells, to which have been added four, within this century, which taken collectively are esteemed inferior to none in the kingdom. [r] Nor can I think it an injudicious assertion to say, that, under *Mr. Charles Horton*, late Master of the society of singers here, the rude custom

[r] Last year was rang upon these bells, by some youths in Leicester, a peal of 10080, which lasted 7 hours 10 minutes.

CHAP. 18. cuſtom of ſinging in the churches, in theſe parts, gave way to a more cultivated taſte.

As this church has been noticed for its muſical bells and ſingers, ſo ought the pariſhioners to be for their laudable ſpirit in erecting, by a ſubſcription, among themſelves, a handſome Organ, which was finiſhed A. D. 1773.

Lord Rollo, a native of Scotland, who is enrolled among the renowned commanders of the laſt war, died at Leiceſter A. D. 1765, and was buried in the church-yard, where a handſome monument was erected to his memory.

LEICESTER-CASTLE.

The hiſtory of this place contains ſome important matter that may be more

more profitably noticed here than with the plan of this work: on that account I have reserved the following particulars of it, to be inserted here, exclusive of what has, and may be related of it in detached pieces.

No certain account has reached these distant times of its being first built; however none which I have met with has given me such information: and, not to mention my own ardour, for some years, in the prosecution of this work, I have in my possession the industry of a CART, and a STAVELEY.

IF it be allowed that king Leir was the founder of Leicester, as was noticed page 26, vol. 1, and that he built the *Temple Janus* there; it seems

CHAP. 18. highly probable that Leiceſter was his reſidence: for we are told by Jeffery ap Arthur, that, that king was buried in the bed of the river of his name, which paſſes cloſe by the weſt-ſide of Leiceſter. This admitted, there ſeems no ſcite of that ancient City ſo likely for his reſidence as where the remains of the Caſtle now ſtand.

In the time of the Romans, Leiceſter being a grand Station or Camp, there cannot remain a doubt that it was then a place of very conſiderable ſtrength, lying ſo near their military-way, the Foſs, and being ſo conveniently ſituate, in the centre of the land, for intercourſe with their legions. And in the time of the Saxons we have a general teſtimony that it was at times the palace

palace of the Mercian kings. ſ After- CHAP. 18.
wards it fell into the hands of the earls of Leiceſter, ſome of whom, who were in a greater degree attached to it, as a favourite dwelling, I ſhall notice here; and likewiſe ſome of their Charters and privileges which they granted to the ancient city of Leiceſter, as be-

ſ In the 25th Article, Vol. IV. of the Archæologia, publiſhed by the ſociety of Antiquaries, of London, is given a ſatisfactory account of the architecture of ancient Caſtles, by Edward King, Eſq; who ſhews that the Caſtles built, or in uſe among our anceſtors, the Saxons, were extremely well contrived, by their modes of fortification, to reſiſt the attacks of an enemy. The entrance was, though difficult of acceſs, ſo magnificent as to indicate it the reſidence of a dignified perſonage. All the apartments that were for the uſe of his houſehold were conſtructed ſo artfully as to prevent danger from the ſudden attacks of an enemy.

CHAP. 28.

ing concerns of a more domeſtic nature than what has been related of them in the former part of this work.

"DURING the Heptarchy we find that it was uſual to ſtile the Earls of Leiceſter, ſometimes Earls of Mercia; ſome of which are more generally known in hiſtory by the latter title: theſe were ſeldom reſident at this Caſtle. Thoſe who are more frequently known by the former title, were much more reſident here; for if any of the nobility, in thoſe times, held ſeveral Caſtles it was uſual for them to be diſtinguiſhed by that which was his general reſidence. Hence Algarus the ſecond, and Algarus the third, and his ſon Edwin, are generally ſtiled Earls of Leiceſter, from their chief dwelling Leiceſter-Caſtle.

ROBERT

ROBERT DE BELLAMONT, who ob-CHAP. tained the Earldom of Leiceſter, after the Norman conqueſt, made this Caſtle his chief reſidence: as did alſo the ſucceſſors Boſſue, Blanchmains, and Fitz-parnel. 18.

FITZ-PARNEL, Earl of Leiceſter, was ſo extremely fond of this Caſtle, that, the latter part of his days he was ſeldom abſent from it. Here he lived beſtowing the moſt liberal benefactions upon the inhabitants of Leiceſter.—The following Charter of privileges, which he granted to this Town, being curious, I will not ſcruple to give it to the reader, with the annexed engraving, being an exact repreſentation of the Seal which he prefixed to it. *s*

s On account of his great valour, in the holy-land,

CHAP. 28. " Robertus Comes Leiceſtrie filius
" Petronille Comiteſſe Leic : omnibus
" preſens Scriptum inſpecturis Salu-
" tem. Noveritis univerſitas veſtra
" me pro Salute animæ meæ et om-
" nium anteceſſorum meorum, et
" omnium Succeſſorum meorum, di-
" miſiſſe et omnino relaxiſſe, a me et
" hæredibus meis in perpetuum illos
" denarios qui capi Solebant annuatim
" de Burgenſibus meis Leic : ad me-
" tendum ſegetes meos apud Leic : et
" illos infinitos denarios qui capi Sole-
" bant

holy-land, he was ſuffered to uſe the arms of Richard the firſt, king of England.

The originals of this and the ſucceeding charter are in the poſſeſſion of the Mayor and Burgeſſes of Leiceſter. And as the learned reader will not look into the notes, under each, for the aſſiſtance of thoſe tranſlations to underſtand them. The Engliſh reader will, I doubt not, accept what was intended merely for his uſe.

" bant de Singulis vaceis, in defenſo CHAP. 18.
" meo pro es capura et illos infini-
" tos denarios qui capi ſolebant de
" carectis portantibus Bladum de
" Leic: ad alium molendum quam
" ad molendum de Leic: et ut ratum
" habeatur in perpetuum appoſitione.
" Sigilli mei Scriptum preſens munivi.
" His teſtibus Paulo Abbe Leic:
" Pietro Clerico de Lira et multis
" aliis. *t*

t Robert earl of Leiceſter, the ſon of Petronilla counteſs of Leiceſter: to all who may inſpect the preſent writing health. Be it known to you all that I, for the good of my ſoul, and of all my anceſtors, and of all my ſucceſſors, have given up, and entirely cut off from me, and my heirs, for ever, thoſe pence which uſed to be taken, yearly, of my Burgeſſes of Leiceſter to mow down my corn at Leiceſter, and thoſe occaſional pence which uſed to be taken of the owner of each cow, in my right, for tranſgreſſion, and thoſe occaſional pence which uſed to be taken for ruſh baſkets carrying corn from Leiceſter, to be ground from that place.

And

CHAP. 18. MONTFORT the firſt, earl of Leiceſter, ſpent but a ſmall portion of his time at this Caſtle. However his ſon and ſucceſſor was a frequent dweller here, and as a warm friend to the intereſt of Leiceſter, granted its inhabitants ſome bountiful privileges, which the following ſpecial charter will teſtify.

" Simon de Montefort Filius Comi-
" tis Simonis de Montefort, Dominus
" Leiceſtriæ, Omnibus Chriſti fideli-
" bus præſentem paginam viſuris et
" audituris Salutem in Domin. No-
" verit univerſitas veſtra me pro Sa-
" lute animæ meæ et anteceſſorum
" et Succeſſorum meorum Conceſſiſſe
" et præſenti Charta mea Confirmaſſe
de

And that the preſent writing may be held ratified for ever I have confirmed it by affixing my ſeal. Witneſs Paul Abbot of Leiceſter, and Peter Clark of de Lira, and many others.

" de me et heredibus meis in per- CHAP.
" petuum Burgenſibus meis Leiceſtriæ 18.
" et hæredibus, Quod nullus Judæus
" neque Judæ in tempore meo Sive
" in tempore alicujis hæredum meo-
" rum uſque in finem mundi infra
" libertatem villa Leiceſtriæ, habi-
" tabat neque manebit nec reſidentiam
" abtinebit. Volo etiam et præcipio
" quod heredes mei poſt me eſtam liber-
" tatim, integram et illæſam Burgenſi-
" bus prænominatis obſervent et in
" perpetuum warrentizent. Et in
" hujus rei teſtimonium præſentem
" Cartam Sigillo munivi his meo teſti-
" bus Domino Almarico de Mittun,
" Domino Waltero de Aquila, Do-
" mino Rogero Blundo Capell, Wil-
" lo Baſſet, Willo de Miravall, et
" aliis. " THE

" Simon of Montfort the ſon of earl Simon of

CHAP. 18. THE next Earl of Leiceſter, Edmund Plantagenet, dwelt but little at this Caſtle, nor does any record teſtify that his ſon Thomas, Earl of Leiceſter, ſpent much of his time there.—But

of Montfort, lord of Leiceſter, to all the faithful in Chriſt, who may ſee and hear the preſent pages, health in the Lord. Know all of you that I, for the good of my ſoul, and of my anceſtors, and ſucceſſors, have granted, and by my preſent Charter have confirmed, on the behalf of me and my heirs, for ever, to my Burgeſſes of Leiceſter and their heirs, that no Jew or Jeweſs, in my time, or in the time of any of my heirs to the end of the world ſhall inhabit, nor remain, nor obtain a reſidence under the liberty of the Town of Leiceſter.--- I alſo will and command, that my heirs, after me, obſerve and warrant for ever that liberty entire, and inviolate to the aforeſaid Burgeſſes: and in teſtimony of this deed I have confirmed the preſent Charter with my ſeal. Witneſs Lord Almanic of Mittum, Lord Walter of Aquilla, Lord Roger Blund Cavel, William Baſſet, William of Marivall, and others.

MONTFORT'S

SEAL.

BRITISH MUSEUM

But his brother, Henry, was almoſt a CHAP. 18.
conſtant reſident at that place, as was alſo his ſon, called the good duke of Lancaſter. John of Gaunt, who married the duke's daughter, likewiſe took great delight in the Caſtle, even in his abſence from it, when engaged in the public ſervice, he kept there a ſumptious houſhold. He was alſo a bountiful benefactor to the Burgeſſes of Leiceſter, by granting them lands, houſes and privileges; ſome of theſe chartered gifts are now remaining with the Mayor and Burgeſſes of Leiceſter; one of which, bearing date at the Caſtle the 26th day of September, in the 16th year of the reign of Richard II. has the annexed curious ſeal affixed.

On the acceſſion of the ſon and heir of this nobleman, to the crown of England, the Caſtle and the appendant eſtates

CHAP. 18. eſtates of the Earldom of Leiceſter, became emerged in the Crown.-Hence ſeems to have ariſen the holding of parliaments at this Caſtle. Two of which I will notice here. The firſt of theſe, a porogued parliament from Weſtminſter, in the ſecond year of Henry IV. I ſhall only mention ſome of the names of the noble perſonages that attended it. The other, a parliament in the reign of Henry VI. I ſhall preſent the reader with an account of, verbatim, as it ſtands in a manuſcript collection by Mr. Stavely.

At the firſt were preſent: the king of England, the duke of Clarance his brother, the biſhops, John Duke of Bedford, Humphrey duke of Glouceſter, Richard Earl of Cambridge, Edward earl of Devon, Thomas earl of Arundal,

Arundal, Edward earl of March, Richard earl of Warwick, Richard earl of Oxford, Thomas earl of Sarum, Thomas earl of Marſcal, Thomas earl of Dorſet, Michael earl of Suffolk, Randolf earl of Weſtmoreland, &c. &c. CHAP 18.

" Anno Quarto Henrici Sexti.

" Rex Clariſſimo Avunculo ſuo Johanni Duci Bedford, &c. apud Leiceſtr. decimo Octavo die Februarii. Teſt apud Weſtm: Septimo. die Januarii."

" Humfro Duci Gloceſtr. Thom: Duci Exon. Johan. Duci Norfolk. Hen: Com: Northumberl. Humfrido. Com Stafford. Jacobo. de Berkley Chir. Magiſtro Tho: de la

CHAP. 18. War. Willielmo de Ferrariis de Groby Chlr. Johan de Wells Chlr. Johan. Baroni de Grayſtock Chlr. Reginaldo Gray de Ruthin Chlr. Johanni Latimer Chlr. Rob. de Poynings Chlr. Willmo Botreaulx Chlr. Johanni Dacre de Gilſland Chlr.—Willmo Clinton Chlr. Will: Harrington Chlr. Jacobo de Audley Chlr. Johanni Gray de Codoner Chlr. Radulpho Cromwell Chlr.—Lodovico Robeſart Chlr. Ricardo Strang Chlr. Johanni le Scroop de Maſham Chlr.——Willielmo Lovell Chlr. Willielmo la Zouch de Haringworth. Waltero Hungerford. Johanni Tibelot Chlr. Reginald de Warr Chlr. Thom: de Morle Chlr. Willielmo Chemey Capitall Juſticiar."

THE

CHAP. 18.

"THE Parliament holden at Leiceſter the eighteenth day of February, in the fourth year of King Henry the Sixth."

"Before the King ſitting in perſon in the great Hall of the Caſtle of Leiceſter, the Lords and Commons being there preſent, the Biſhop of Wincheſter, Chancellor of England, declared, that the King's Will was, that all eſtates ſhould enjoy their Liberties."

"He then took for his Theme the Words of St. Paul, Sic facite ut Salui Sitis. The which he divided into three parts. The firſt to God, protecting the Faith of the Church againſt the Innovations of the Hereticks and the Lollards. The ſecond by imparting

CHAP. 28. ing ſound Council. The third by granting liberal Subſidies."

"Of which he affirmed, three Virtues and Commodities ſhould follow, viz. Glory to God, by protecting his Faith: Honour to the King, by receiving ſound Council: And Peace to the Subjects by liberal granting.—Wherefore he willed every Eſtate to labour herein, and the Commons to Chooſe, and the next day to preſent their Speaker."

"Receivers of Petitions for England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland."

"Receivers of Petitions for Gaſcoigne, and other places beyond the ſeas and the Iſles."

"Fryers of Petitions for England, &c."

"Toyers

" Fryers of Petitions for Gaſcoign, &c." CHAP. 18.

" The King appointeth, by his Letters Patent, John Duke of Bedford his Commiſſioner to prorogue or Diſſolve the Parliament."

" The 20th day of February the Commons preſented before the King, Richard Vernon, Knt. to be their Speaker, who with the common proteſtation was Allowed."

" Upon the Commons diſliking the diſſention between the Nobles, the Duke of Bedford and other Lords made a ſolemne Decree amongſt themſelves, that every of them ſhould, without affection, hear and end the diſſention between the Duke of Glouceſter, and the Biſhop of Wincheſter, ſo as neither of them ſhould be Incouraged to

CHAP. 18. break the Peace: To which order after every of the Lords were Sworne, they ſent the copy thereof to the Commons. It being alſo ordered that none of the Lords or their Followers ſhould repair to the Parliament with Weapons."

"The fifth of March, It was ordered that a Proclamation ſhould be made in Leiceſter, that all ſuch as had any Annuitie, Fee, or Office of the Kings grant, or Confirmation, and were in the ſaid Town, ſhould there appear before the King, and his Councell, on Wedneſday inſuing to abide ſuch directions as they ſhould Receive."

"The variance between the Duke of Glouceſter and the Biſhop of Winchester, by their formal Inſtruments, is

is compromitted to certain Biſhops and Lords, who by like formallity make a full order between them, viz. That the Biſhop ſhould firſt ſubmit himſelf to the King, which he did.— Whereupon the Duke of Bedford, in open Parliament, by the Kings Commandment pronounced the ſaid Biſhop Excuſed as well of that it is ſaid, that the ſaid Biſhop had procured one to have Murthered the King, being Prince as the Murtherer Confeſſed, who was therefore drowned by the Earl of Arundall: as alſo, for that it was ſaid, that the Biſhop ſhould Councell, and would have it procured, by king Henry IV. his Father." CHAP. 18.

"Beſides, they awarded, That the ſaid Biſhop ſhould acknowledge to the ſaid Duke of Glouceſter an Offence,

CHAP. 28. and by his Submiſſion to pray his favour, and that the Duke ſhould promiſe the Same; and that in token thereof, either of them ſhould take the other by the Hand, which was done in token of Reconciliation."

"The Thirteenth day of March, the Biſhop of Wincheſter, for ſundry Cauſes, prayeth to be diſcharged of the Great Seal, whereof by Common Conſent he was diſcharged."

"The Biſhop of Bath, Treaſurer of England, was of his Office alſo diſcharged."

"The Eighteenth day of March, John Biſhop of Bath and Wells, late Treaſurer of England, by a Writt of the Privy Seal delivered unto the Duke of Bedford, the Kings Great Seal of Gold

Gold in a Leather Bagg; the which the Duke tooke, and Shewed openly, and then Sealed it up with his own Seal, and after delivered the ſame to John Biſhop of London, Chancellor of England." CHAP. 18.

" The Biſhop of Durham, by Virtue of a Privy Seal to him directed, delivered the Laſt Will and Teſtament, with a Codicill thereto Annexed of K. Henry V. which was Sealed with the Great and Privy Seal, and the Privy Signet to the Lords of the Privy Councell, who delivered the ſame over ſafely to be kept, to Mr. Alenwick Keeper of the Privy Seal."

" It is Enacted, that the Lords of the Councell, ſhall have full power to bind the King, his Heirs, and Suc-

CHAP. 18. ceſſors, to his Creditors, by one Aſſurance for the ſum of 4000l."

"At the Petition of the Earl of Huntingdon, the King, by Common Conſent, releaſeth to Lewes of Burbon, Earl of Vandoſme, all the Arrears of the Ranſome, being taken Priſoner at Agincourt-field."

"The Duke of Bedford, who had the keeping of the Caſtle at Barwicke, to him and his Heirs Males, with the Fee of 500 Marks, hath licence by Common Conſent to appoint a Deputy there, at the Kings Pleaſure."

"It is Enacted, that any of the Feoffees of King Henry V. may take the Homage of Fealty, of any Tennants holding them."

"The

CHAP. 18.

" The King grants to Thomas Corniſh of Uxbridge. Com: Midd: a Pardon for Stealing of Muttons."

" It is Enacted, that the Kings Councell by Authority of Parliament, ſhall have Power to End all ſuch Bills, as are not ended by Parliament."

" It is decreed, by Common aſſent of the Lords, that the late Subſidie of Tonnage and Poundage, to the King granted, ought Simply to be payed, notwithſtanding many Conditions."

" The Twentieth day of March, before the Lords and Commons, the Biſhop of London, Chancellor of England, by the Kings Commiſſarys Commandment, Porogued the Parliament, from the ſame Monday next

CHAP. 18. after the Feaſt of St. George, at Leiceſter."

"The firſt day of June, the Commons by aſſent of the Biſhops, and Lords, granted to the King, the Subſidie of Wools, Tonnage & Poundage as before."

"The King by Common Conſent, granteth, by his Letters patents, that the Prior of St. Trinity, in York, being a Cell of the Abby of Meremaſter, in France, ſhould be Denizens."

"At the requeſt of the Merchants of Hans, the King, according to their Liberties, appointeth to them one of the Aldermen of London by name, to be a Judge between party, and party of the ſame Company of Hans, in all Suits, and that within one month after the

the Death, or leaving over, of any such Alderman, there be appointed to them one other Alderman to supply the same." CHAP. 18.

Petitions of the Commons, with the Answers.

"Upon motion of the Commons, it was granted, that all such Merchants as have payed Subsidie for their Wools, and could prove before their Councell that the same or any part thereof, was perished, that then they should Shipp so much without Custome."

"That no Man make any Advowson, Collation, Presentation, or Induction to any Alien, of any Benefice, or Eccleſiaſticall Dignity, on pain of the premunire."

The

CHAP. 18.

The King will be Adviſed.

" That no Man of good name, be Impeached by the Accuſation of any being in Sanctuary, unleſs Suretys be bound that proof be made thereof."

The Statutes made ſhall be Obſerved.

" That every Patron may newly preſent for the non-reſidence of the Incumbent."

The Biſhops have promiſed to take Order therein.

" The Print againſt Bribery of Sheriffs, Chap. 1. agreeth with the Record."

" That all Strangers being within the Realme about Queen Joan, may depart out of the Realme."

The

The Statutes thereof made ſhall be obſerved. CHAP. 18.

" That the Chancellor of England, for the time being, may for reaſonable fines grant Licences to the Kings Tennants that hold in Chief, to alien their Lands, and to the Kings Widdows, to Marry themſelves according to the Ancient Cuſtome."

The King will be Adviſed.

" The print touching the Miſpriſion of Clarks of the Kings Courts, Chap. 3. agrees with the Record." v

The above are ſome of the proceedings of this parliament abſtracted from the records thereof, being ſome curious particulars not to be found in the printed book of Statutes concerning the

v See page 33.

CHAP. 18. the acts passed at that time, which I flatter myself cannot fail to be acceptable to the reader.

THIS long honoured Castle descending to the Crown from John of Gaunt, became once more the palace of a King: but notwithstand this illustrious connection, hence we may date its declining glory: but a few feeble efforts, after this time, were made to prevent its fall. Now, time has removed the stately structure which enclosed the Throne of Royalty.—Time, in conjunction with the barbarous hands of a distracted country which has rent in sunder the vestiges of antiquity, erased the MONUMENT of Leicester's greatness. The revolving of three hundred years has changed the splendid scene. Its potent Earls, who long held the foremost

rank

rank in the tranſactions of this king dom, are now no more; but their illuſtrious characters unlike their eraſed dwelling, will ſtand like the inſcriptions on monumental braſs, to after ages! CHAP. 18.

Some few events I ſhall have occaſion to notice of its viciſſitudes, after this time; but the enquiring reader may wiſh to know the juſt poſition of this Caſtle, and its extent in former times; alas! it has been a laborious and an unrewarded taſk which I have impoſed upon myſelf; all I dare ſay on this head is, that it extended conſiderably northward and ſouthward: and if we may judge from the modern rules of architecture, and the poſition of St. Mary's Church, it took in but little of the area of the Caſtle-Yard --

That

CHAP. 18. That part of the building which now remains, is made uſe of at the Aſſizes for the County Courts of Juſtice; we are told it was the Hall of the Caſtle, it is exceeding lofty, and of that magnitude, that when the courts are ſitting together, not the leaſt diſturbance is given to each other.

Sir NICHOLAS BURDET, Knight,

SUPPOSED to be born at Newtown-Burdet, in this County, was made chief Butler of Normandy, and governor of the city of Eureux, in the ſaid dutchy: He was ſlain at the battle of Pontoiſe, in 1439.

JOHN BEAUMONT,

WHO ſprang from an ancient and honourable family in this County, whoſe

whoſe Park, commonly called Beau-mont Park, ſtood encloſed within the boundaries of Charley-Foreſt, was the firſt man whom the king honoured with the title of Viſcount. He was was alſo made Conſtable of England in this reign. This Family was of French extraction; from a younger ſon of John Count of Brene, who by his great valor was honoured by marrying the heireſs of the king Jeruſalem, and himſelf alſo was afterwards crowned king of that place, in right of his wife, A. D. 1248. CHAP. 18.

ROBERT HARBY,

WHO was born at Harby in this County, was bred a Friar in the convent of Lincoln. He took a doctor of divinity's degree. He wrote many

ſermons

CHAP. 28.

sermons and tracts upon the feast of the Virgin Mary: wherein he professed an affectionate zeal, warm piety, and adoration, to that holy Lady. He wrote also a treatise recommending his own order, and died some time towards the latter end of this reign.

JEFFREY FIELDING,

Son of William Fielding, of Lutterworth, mercer, was chosen Lord Mayor of the city of London, A. D. 1451.

EARL of SHREWSBURY.

Bittesby, a depopulated village near Cleibrooke, is noted for being the manor of this nobleman, by whose valour the conquered country of France was in a great measure preserved to Henry

Henry VI. for the ſpace of 20 years. This earl loſt his life at the battle of Chatillion, 1453. But the death of this brave ſoldier was inconſiderable to the revolt which ſucceeded, of the whole dutchy of Aquitan from the Engliſh to the French, containing four Archbiſhopricks, twenty-four Biſhopricks, fifteen Earldoms, 202 Baronies, and 1000 Captainries and Bailiwicks. This Manor continued a long time with this noble family. CHAP. 18.

A RELIGIOUS PUNISHMENT.

How unamiable are human decrees, in religion, when a part of God's creatures are excluded from his divine ordinances, becauſe he, in his wiſdom, has thought fit that they ſhould exiſt, in this probationary life, dependant on the will of others?—The

CHAP. 18. Hoſpital of St. Leonard, which was founded by William the Leper, ſon of Robert Blanchmain, near St. Leonard's charch-yard, Leiceſter, had a chaplain, who in the year 1439, at Eaſter, admitted two ſervants of the Maſter's, of this houſe, to the Euchariſt, i. e. the ſacrament of the Lord's ſupper, for which he was ſentenced by the Biſhop's Commiſſary, to do penance the ſunday following, at the proceſſion in St. Leonard's church. *w*

w In the time of Edward the Fourth, Wm. Lord Haſtings had a grant of this Hoſpital from the King: and on condition that the religious in the Collegiate church of Leiceſter, would keep a ſpecial Obit for him, he gave it to that Church.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

Edward IV.——Sir Wm. Haſtings——Aſhby-de-la-zouch.——Kirby, near Leiceſter-Foreſt.——Whitwick.——Thos. Burdet, Eſqr.——Wm. Heriot.

EDWARD IV.

ELDEST ſon of Richard duke of York, aſcended the throne in the 20th year of his age. The ſame year he obtained a great victory over King Henry's forces, and took the dethroned king priſoner. King Edward was afterwards defeated by the earl of Warwick, and made priſoner. Then Henry reaſcended the throne and Edward eſcaped beyond ſea; but ſoon after returning and collecting an amazing army, he marched to Leiceſter, where

CHAP. 19. where the army of Henry lay, commanded by the earls of Warwick and Oxford, who ſuffered Edward to paſs them without riſking a battle. After this a bloody battle was fought at Barnet, and another at Tewkſbury, where Edward was victorious. He then reaſcended the throne. On the 24th of May, 1741, the captive Henry was murdered in the Tower by Richard duke of Glouceſter. Edward died in
1483. the forty-firſt year of his age. *x*

Sir

x Edward's perſon was graceful, and he poſſeſſed a martial ſpirit. He was polite in council, and in adverſity never abaſhed; in proſperity rather lively than proud. But the frailties of human nature were manifeſt in his character: integrity and inconſtancy were among his errors; the former was ſeen on many occaſions, and the latter was felt ſeverely by the female beauties of the age.

Sir William Hastings,

CHAP. 19.

A native of this county, was lord of the manor of Arnſby, (anciently called Erneſby) and was, for his ſervices to Edward, created Lord Haſtings: and after Edward had recovered the crown, the ſecond time, he gave him the manor of Aſhby-de-la-zouch, which had fallen to the king upon the attainder of the Earl of Ormond, for aiding and ſupporting the unfortunate Henry. He was alſo made Chamberlain of the king's houſhold, Captain of Calais and knight of the Garter.

This nobleman was ſingularly beloved by Edward, was his only confidant in his amours with his beautiful miſtreſſes, particularly Jane Shore; but from the temper of Edward's Queen we may judge that he was not

ſo

CHAP. 19. so fast a friend to her party, after her husband's death. For we find that he, in conjunction with the duke of Buckingham, sent express to the duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. who was then at York, with the news of that event, desiring him to hasten home and take the reins of government from the Queen, during the young king's minority. This ought to be understood, that he could never intend, by this conduct, to fall in with the ambitions views of the murdering Richard. It was oweing to his fond attachment to the son of his royal master, which made him so hasty in his application to Richard for the protection of the young king.

Richard appointed an interview with lord Hastings, and his colleague, the duke

duke of Buckingham, at Northamp-CHAP. 19.
ton, where Richard told them in an artful ſpeech, that they would be at the mercy of an impious woman, if ſhe was ſuffered to guide the affairs of the kingdom during his nephew's minority. And as every one knew his zeal for the good of the nation and the honour and proſperity of his brother's family, he was reſolved by the aſſiſtance of thoſe noble perſonages to take the young king under his care, and promote, as far as in him lay, the welfare and glory of the nation.

This ſpeech meeting with applauſe, lord Haſtings haſtened to London where his preſence was neceſſary, on account of the great eſteem he was held in there; and when a tumult was raiſed, in that City, by reaſon of Richard's

CHAP. 19. Richard's getting poſſeſſion of the young king's perſon, at Northampton, he had intereſt enough to appeaſe that commotion by aſſuring them the king was ſafe, being ignorant of Richard's deſign, and that earl Rivers and lord Grey who were arreſted, would be brought to a legal, and open trial.

As ſoon as Richard was declared protector, he made ſeveral changes in the miniſtry, but Lord Haſtings continued to enjoy the places he held before, but when the protector's ſchemes were ripe for ſeizing the Crown, it was determined by him and his aſſociates, in their horrid plots, either to gain lord Haſtings to fall in with their projects, or diſpatch him; as one or the other, ſeemed to them abſolutely neceſſary, conſidering the great

great intereſt he had with the people in the metropolis. CHAP. 19.

The Lord Stanley was the firſt who penetrated into the protector's deſign, which he communicated to Lord Haſtings, but he ſtill poſſeſſed the opinion that the protector thought only of humbling the queen, in reply, offered to pawn his life that if any thing was intended, detrimental to the ſtate, he ſhould be inſtantly informed of it, by one of the member's of the protector's council. y Although Stanley knew not whence he was certain of receiving ſuch information, he imprudently

y An infamous Lawyer, Richard Catesby, who had crept into the protector's favour, through the influence of Lord Haſtings, who had by that nobleman's means been put into a place of conſiderable truſt, in Leiceſterſhire, where Lord Haſting's intereſt lay.

CHAP. 19. preferred Lord Hasting's assurances to his own judgement, and rested in a fatal security.

The protector now thought it time to sound Lord Hastings, respecting his project for claiming the crown, to that end he instructed Catesby to engage him in that business. The treacherous Catesby, being properly tutored, went to Lord Hastings and observed that the people talked much that the Duke of Glouceſter's title to the crown was preferable to Edward's children, and observed that the nation seemed more desirous of being governed by a Man than a Child, and that for his part he had not examined the matter, but should be glad to know his opinion. Lord Hastings, not in the least suspecting this

this ſuppoſed friend, imparted the whole of Lord Stanley's ſuſpicions of the protector, and added that he had rather ſee the deſtruction of the protector and his party, than that the late king's children ſhould be deprived of their right. And that if any thing were in agitation in favour of Gloceſter, he would employ his credit, his eſtate, and his life to prevent it ſucceeding. This was carried with the aggravations of treachery to the protector, which haſtened this nobleman's deſtruction. CHAP. 19.

The protector now fired with indignation, was reſolved to diſpatch him. He called a council at the tower under pretence of fixing a day for the young king's coronation, where he charged the queen and Jane Shore

CHAP. 19. Shore with witchcraft, and ſhewed to the council his withered arm which he ſaid was reduced by their ſorceries. Lord Haſtings, who after king Edward's death had kept Jane Shore, perceiving ſhe was involved in a ſhameful accuſation, could not forbear ſhewing how much he doubted of her guilt, by ſaying, *If they had committed ſuch a crime, they deſerved to periſh.*—*What*, ſays the protector, with a loud voice, *doſt thou anſwer me with If's and And's, as if I had forged this accuſation? I tell thee they have conſpired my death, and that thyſelf art acceſſary to the crime.* He had no ſooner ended theſe words, when, upon a ſignal given, a party of ſoldiers ruſhed into the room, the protector then turning to Lord Haſtings, ſaid to him, *I arreſt thee for high-treaſon.*—

Why,

CHAP. 19.

Who, me, my Lord, anſwered Haſtings?—*Yes, thee, traitor*, replied the protector: *Nor will I dine till thy head is ſtruck off.* Accordingly the execution was haſtened with every circumſtance of diſhonour and injuſtice. A common log of wood was found on the green, before the tower chapel, on which he was commanded to lay his neck, having ſcarce any time allowed him to make a few ejaculatious, accompanied by a prieſt who was there by a mere accident, before his head was ſtruck off. A. D. 1483.—The body of this unfortunate nobleman was interred by his royal maſter at Windſor.

Thus ended the life of Lord Haſtings.—If in whoſe portrait there be ſome diſtinguiſhed marks of imperfection,

CHAP. 19. fection, they are of that kind which the liberal are prone to veil. His attachment to a beautiful female, whoſe fall commanded pity from every breaſt who had beheld her virtues in her exalted, though diſhonourable ſtation, will be readily excuſed by all who can love, and can commiſerate. He was too honourable, too kind, and too ſincere to guard againſt the latent ſchemes of deſigning villains: and too open to diſcover treachery and prevent his ſudden hapleſs fall.

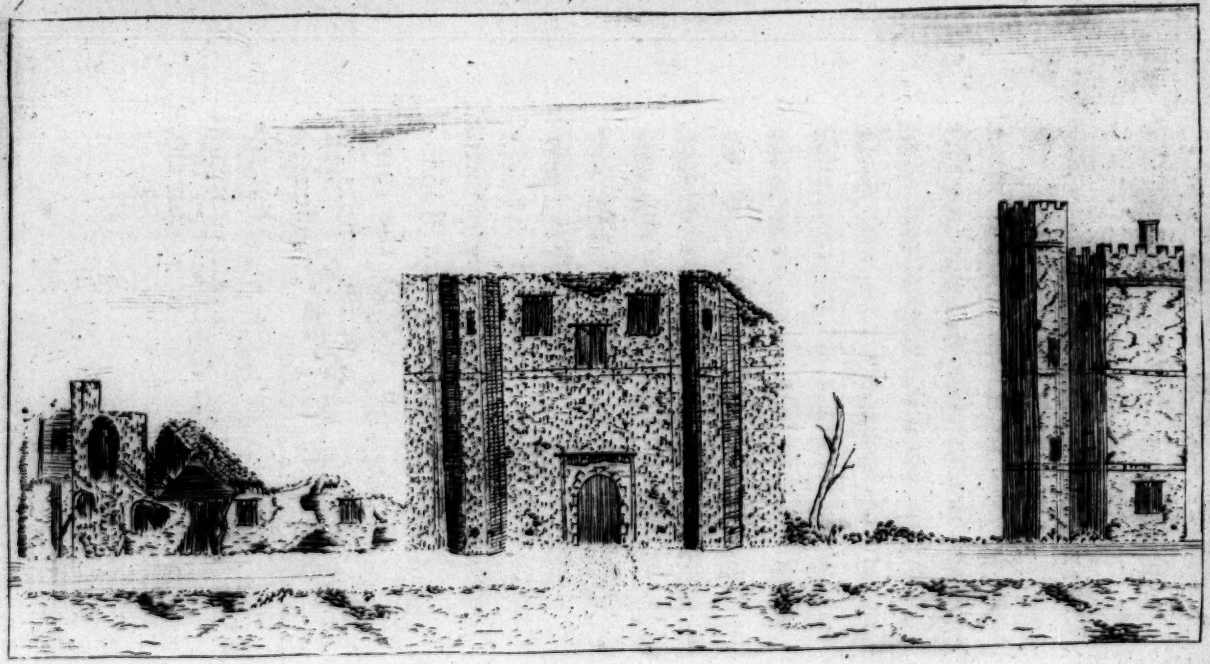
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

THIS Lord Haſtings procured of King Edward, for certain Fairs to be kept yearly in that place. He alſo built there a noble Caſtle, where he ſometimes reſided, but at this diſtant period it is much decayed.

KIRBY,

BRITISH MUSEUM

p. 47 v. 3



KIRBY near LEICESTER FOREST. CHAP. 19.

THERE ſtands at the bottom of a farm-yard in this village, a pile of ruins of no inconſiderable magnitude, betokening, in ſome parts, to have been a noble reſidence, and others ſomething reſembling a place of annoyance or ſecurity. A great part of the building is now encircled with water, which runs cloſe to its foundation, and it appears as if it formerly encloſed the whole. The length of theſe ruins, which are built of brick and ſtone, is about fifty yards, and the height ſeems to be proportionate. There ſtood a lofty tower at each end of the ruins, which muſt have given the whole rather the appearance of grandeur.—One of them is pretty perfect, but the other is making haſty ſtrides towards complete

CHA. 19.

complete annihilation. I went into ſeveral rooms upon the ground floor, and the upper appartments, ſome of which appear to have been never finiſhed. Tradition ſays that it was built by the Lord Haſtings, abovementioned, as a retreat for the unfortunate Jane Shore, whom he ſecreted in it for ſome time. ⁂ I cannot doubt

⁂ This female was ſentenced, the ſame year in which Lord Haſtings loſt his life, to do penance in St. Paul's Church for being the concubine of Edward the Fourth.——— The character of this fair one, drawn by Sir Thomas More who lived in her time, cannot but be acceptable to my readers, as her ſtory is ſo much blended with that of Lord Haſtings'.

"This woman was born in London, wor-
"ſhipfully friended, honeſtly brought up,
"and very well married, ſaving ſomewhat
"too ſoon; her husband an honeſt citizen,
young,

doubt but it was built by Lord Haſt- CHA.
ings, but for what purpoſe is very un- 19.
certain. It is not at all improbable,
that if Jane Shore was never here, it

H might

" young, and goodly, and of a good ſub-
" ſtance. But as much as they were coupled,
" 'ere they were well ripe, ſhe not very fer-
" vently loved, for whom ſhe never longed,
" which was haply the thing that made her
" incline unto the king's appetite when he
" required her. However the reſpect of his
" royalty, the hope of gay apparel, eaſe,
" pleaſure, and other wanton wealth, were
" able ſoon to pierce a ſoft tender heart.—
" But when the king had abuſed her anon her
" husband, not preſuming to touch a king's
" concubine, left her up to him altogether.
" When the king died, the Lord Chamber-
" lain took her, (i. e. Lord Haſtings) which
" in the king's days he was ſore enamoured
" upon her, yet to forbear her either for re-
" verence, or for a certain friendly faithful-
" neſs: proper ſhe was, fair and nothing in
" her body that you could have changed, un-
" leſs

CHAP. 19. might be intended by that nobleman as a place of retirement for him and that fair one, had they escaped the stern Richard's dreaded power. The following

"less you would have wished her somewhat
"higher. Thus they say that knew her in
"her youth. Albeit some that now see her,
"(for as yet she liveth) deem her never to
"have been well visaged, whose judgement
"seemeth to me somewhat like as though we
"could guess at the beauty of one long be-
"fore departed, by her scalp taken out of a
"carnel-house, for now she is old, lean,
"withered and dried up, nothing left but
"wrinkled skin and hard bones; and yet be-
"ing even such, who so well advise her vi-
"sage, might guess and devise, which parts,
"how filled, would make it a fair face.-----
"Yet delighted not men so much in her
"beauty as in her pleasant behaviour, for a
"proper wit she had, and could both rea
"well and write, merry in company, ready
"and quick of answer, neither mute nor full
"of babble, somewhat taunting without dis-
"pleasure

following will prove that this lordſhip formerly belonged to the noble family of Haſtings. CHAP. 19.

" Kirby in the hundred of Sparkenhoe, ſtanding upon the weſt-ſide of the foreſt of Leiceſter, the lord whereof was Sir William Herle, knight,

" pleaſure, and not without diſport: in whom " king Edward took ſpecial pleaſure, whoſe " favour ſhe never abuſed to any man's hurt, " but to many a one's comfort and relief.--- " When the king took diſpleaſure ſhe would " mitigate and appeaſe his mind; where men " were out of favour ſhe would bring them " into his grace, for many that highly of- " fended, ſhe obtained pardon. Of great " forfeitures ſhe got them remiſſion. And " finally, in many weighty ſuits ſhe ſtood " many men in great ſtead."——The ſame author further remarks, that ſhe was, when he wrote this, in a beggarly condition, unfriended and worn out of acquaintance, which he rather laments.

CHAP. 19. chief juſtice of the common-pleas, in the time of king Edward the firſt, who had iſſue William, whoſe daughter and heireſs was married to Sir Ralph de Haſtings, knight lineal anceſtor of Henry, now earl of Huntingdon. It is now (i. e. in Burton's time) the inheritance of Sir Henry Haſtings, knight, ſon of Walter Haſtings, Eſq; fifth ſon of Francis earl of Huntingdon."

WHITWICK,

Is a place of antiquity. Its manor was given to Edward the fourth by his friend and confident Lord Haſtings, upon the attainder of William Viſcount Beaumont.—It formerly belonged to the earls of Leiceſter, who before the conqueſt had here a caſtle or manſion, and an extenſive park,

Edward

Edward the firſt granted liberty of a fair and market to be held here, which have been long diſuſed. Henry the ſixth granted unto John Viſcount Beaumont, who was then in poſſeſſion of this place, liberty to have a peculiar and proper priſon there, for the puniſhment of offenders within his juriſdiction. CHAP. 19.

THOMAS BURDET, Eſqr.

Of Newton-Burdet, in this county, grandſon and heir to Sir Thomas Burdet, who was high-ſheriff of Leiceſterſhire the third of Henry 5th. is memorable on the following account. When Edward the 4th. in the abſence of Mr. Burdet, killed a fine white buck, a particular favorite of its owner, at a park he had at Harrow in

CHAP. 19.

Warwickſhire; Mr. Burdet, upon hearing the news of which, exclaimed that he wiſhed the buck's head and horns in the belly of him who adviſed the king to kill it. Theſe words being repreſented to the king as if he had wiſhed them in his belly, ſo offended his majeſty that he had Mr. Burdet immediately accuſed of high-treaſon, convicted and beheaded, A. D. 1477.—Britons! eſteem, not abuſe, the ſacred freedom ye are now poſſeſſed of, by a licentious diſplay of liberty.

WILLIAM HARIOT,

Born at Segrave, in this county, was choſen lord mayor of the city of London, A. D. 1481.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

Edward V.——Robert Belleſdon.

EDWARD V.

ELdeſt ſon of Edward 4th. was only twelve years of age at the demiſe of his father. Inſtead of being firmly ſeated upon a throne, he was ſent, with his brother, to the tower, by his uncle, Richard duke of Glouceſter, who was choſen protector during the young king's minority. Ambition led this baſe guardian, to remove the young king's friends by carnage, to endeavour to prove him a baſtard, and laſtly to complete a black catalogue of deteſted vices to cauſe his nephews to be murdered in their priſon. *a* This

a Sir Thomas More ſays, that one Tyrrel was appointed by Richard for that horrid buſineſs;

CHAP. 20. Edward's reign was only about two months; and that chiefly in confinement, trembling under the proſpect of a ſudden death.—Deteſted be that heart which can build upon the deſign of murder an hope of future bliſs!

ROBERT

ſineſs; and he procured one Miles Forreſt, and John Dighton, to be the immediate inſtruments thereof. *The former*, ſays he, *was a fellow fleſhed in murder before time, and the latter a horſe-keeper, a big, broad ſquare knave.* About midnight, all others being removed theſe two ruffians entered the princes appartment, and ſuddenly wrapped up their bed-cloaths, and forced them againſt their mouths with all their ſtrength, till they ceaſed to ſtruggle under the preſure of their weighty bodies, which when theſe monſters perceived, they laid their dead bodies naked upon the bed, and then fetched Tyrrel, their employer, to be ſatisfied of the compeletion of the horrid deed, who cauſed their bodies to be buried under the ſtairs.

ROBERT BELESDON, CHAP. 20.

OF Queningſborough, was choſen lord mayor of the city of London, A. D. 1483.

CHAP.

CHAP. 21.

CHAP. XXI.

Richard III.——Herdewick.——Bosworth.——Digby.——A fatal Sickneſs.

RICHARD III.

A Uſurper, and a murderer, next aſcended the throne. His crimes & the mourning relatives of the unfortunate ſufferers, ſeemed to call down vengeance from heaven on his obdurate heart. His ſubjects beheld him, with indignation, rewarding thoſe who were inſtruments to effect his horrid purpoſes. They formed a deſign to baniſh the tyrant from his uſurpation, and place Richmond, a deſcendant of John of Gaunt, there, in his ſtead. The earl of Richmond was

was then an exile in Britanny, where a propoſal was made him, by the diſaffected, of marrying the princeſs Elizabeth, king Edward's daughter, and by that means to effect an union of the oppoſite factions of York and Lancaſter. Richmond, accepting the offer, and being joined by a number of friends, landed an army of 2000 men at Millford-Haven, in Wales. Richard, who ſaw the impending danger, raiſed a body of forces and fixed his ſtandard at Nottingham. He granted commiſſions empowering perſons in different counties to raiſe forces to oppoſe the Earl's landing; but inſtead of oppoſing, great numbers joined Richmond on his march. Among others lord Stanley was intruſted to raiſe forces to oppoſe Richmond; but being allied to the Earl, Richard CHAP. 21.

CHAP. 23. Richard thought it prudent to retain Stanley's ſon as a pledge for his fidelity; however both armies were at a loſs to judge of the intentions of lord Stanley. When Richard heard that he had advanced to Litchfield, and that ſeveral of his ſuppoſed friends had joined the Earl's ſtandard, Richard loſt no time in preparing for a final conflict. For this purpoſe he marched from Nottingham intending to meet Richmond on his march toward Leiceſter; but the Earl not advancing, Richard entered Leiceſter about ſun-ſet, mounted upon a fine light grey horſe, in great pomp, and ſwelling with threats of indignation and revenge. Here he continued all night; *b* and early the next morning he

b The principal part of Leiceſter was then that

he ſet out to meet the contender for his crown. The two armies came in ſight of each other at a place called Redmore-plain, near Market-Boſworth, in this county. In this ſituation the king ſent a peremptory meſſuage to lord Stanley, who lay with his

CHAP. 21.

that ſtreet which leads from the north to the ſouth-gate. The chief inn ſtood oppoſite the free-ſchool; where the king lay, then the ſign of the boar, "his cogniſance," ſays Mr. Speed. But upon his defeat, all the ſigns of the *boar* being torn down as an inſult to his memory, it ſeems probable that this inn afterwards became the ſign of the *blue-bell*. The Rev. Mr. Pigot, of Leiceſter, having ſhewn me a piece of glaſs, now in the poſſeſſion of Mrs. Simons, the preſent occupier of that houſe, which was taken from one of the windows, on which is painted a blue bell. The preſent name of the lane, in which part of this houſe ſtands, ſeems compounded of the former and latter ſigns, *blue-boar-lane*.—See the article Clark after James I. reign.

CHAP. 21. his force at a little distance, which ordered him to join his army immediately, upon pain of instant death to his son if not complied with. Stanley refused to obey the injunction, and the stern Richard condemned his son to instant death. But the king's counsellors dissuaded him from his purpose, by telling him, "That this was the time to fight, not to execute.

Richard then drew out his army, upon the plain, in the following order for battle. He extended his foremost line to a considerable length, in the front of which he placed some choice archers, the command of which was given to the duke of Norfolk; with whom was the earl of Surry and his son. His own battalion consisted of some approved soldiers, having a wing of

of horſe on each ſide. Being thus or- CHAP. 21.
dered for battle, Richard mounted his coarſer with the crown upon his head, and harangued his ſoldiers as follows.

"My faithful followers, friends, and ſelected chieftains, I confeſs, by your puiſſant valour, I firſt aſpired to the top of this royal eſtate, in obtaining and wearing this diadem of imperial Majeſty, and maugre the ſeditious attempt of all cankered adverſaries. By your prudent and politic counſels, I have ſo governed the realm, people, and ſubjects, as I have omitted nothing, appertaining to the office of a juſt prince, nor you pretermitted any thing belonging to the parts and duties of moſt prudent counſellors. And albeit, that in the getting of the Garland, I was provoked

CHAP. 21. voked by ſiniſter counſel, and ſeduced by a diabolical temptation to commit a deteſtable act, yet with tears and penance I have, I truſt, expiated that heinous offence; which abominable crime I deſire you ſo clearly to forget, as I daily remember to deplore and lament. If you will now vouchſafe to call to mind in what caſe we all ſtand, and in what doubtful peril we are entrapped, I doubt not but you will with me confeſs, that if ever amity prevailed betwixt the raiſed and the raiſers, betwixt the prince and his ſubjects, this day requires as much in us both. For, if wiſe-men ſay true, that there is not ſo much power in getting, as there is policy in keeping, the one meer fortune's chance, the other, wiſdom's deep inſight: then I with you, and you with me, this day

day muſt needs take labour and pains, to keep that pre-eminence and poſſeſſion by force, which by your prudent labour I have obtained. The devil, you know, a continual enemy to human ſociety, a diſturber of concord, and a ſower of ſedition, hath entered into the heart of an unknown Welſhman, (whoſe father I never knew, nor him ever perſonally ſaw) exciting him to aſpire and covet our Realm and Crown, to the diſinheriting of us and of our poſterity. You ſee further how a company of traitors, thieſs, out-laws and runagates of our nation, beſides a number of beggarly Britons and faint-hearted Frenchmen, are aiders and partakers of this his wicked enterprize ready at hand to oppreſs and ſpoil us, our land, our wives, and children; which eminent CHAP. 21.

CHAP. 21. miſchiefs if we then will withſtand and reſiſt, we muſt live and die together as brethren, fight together like lions, and fear not to die like men; thus reſolved, believe me that, the fearful hart never fled before the greedy greyhound, the ſilly lark before the ſparrow-hawk, or the harmleſs ſheep before the wolf, than theſe proud begging enemies will run out of the field at the ſight of your manly viſages. For have we not manifeſt tokens of victory and triumphs? Is not the captain of the rebellion a Welſh milk-ſop, of no courage, and leſs experience in marſhall feats of war, brought up by my brother's means and mine, like a bird in a cage, in the court of Britainny, never ſaw an army, never wore armour, without practice, and therefore without knowledge

knowledge to govern a field? What are his followers but a ſort of fainting runagates, whoſe fearful eyes, as they could not behold our rays in peace, can worſe abide to ſee our royal banner diſplayed againſt them in fight? Their own conſciences ſhall bewray their guilt, their oaths, their perjury, their promiſe, infidelity, and the ſight of us, their anointed ſovereign, ſhall either cauſe them ſhamefully to fly, or ſubmiſſively to yield themſelves to our mercy. As touching his French and Britain aiders, their valours have been well known to our noble progenitors, often vanquiſhed, but never vanquiſhers, only braggers without any great deeds, drunkards without diſcretion, ribaulds without reaſon, cowards without reſiſtance, (and in a word,) effi- CHAP. 21.

CHAP. 21. minate, laſcivious, and never ſeen in the front of a battle, ſeeking ten times more means to fly and eſcape, than once to aſſault the face of their enemies.—Therefore like valiant captains advance forth your ſtandards, and make known your manhood, by the dint of ſword, and be ſure, that, if every one of you give but one ſure ſtroke, the day will be our own; for how can a handful withſtand a whole realm? Advance therefore my valiant leaders in whom I well know is wanting neither courage, policy nor wiſdom, I therefore deſire you, for your love to me-ward, the zeal of your native country, and the ſafety of your prince and ſelves, to ſhew this day your true Engliſh valour. As for myſelf, I aſſure you, I will this day triumph

umph in a glorious victory, or die in this quarrel with immortal fame, ; in whose place all our names shall be enrolled, if we prefer the renown of our country before our own lives. Now St. George for us, and us for victory, haste therefore forward, and remember this, that I am he who with high advancements will prefer the valiant and hardy, and with severe torture will punish the dastard and cowardly runaway !" CHAP. 21.

Richmond also drew up his troops, amounting to about five thousand, in two lines, but indifferently armed : the command of the first he gave to the earl of Oxford, while himself conducted the other. Lord Stanley with his forces lay at a little distance, uncertain to either which he would join.

CHAP. 21. Richmond after aſcending a convenient precipice, the better to be ſeen and heard by his ſoldiers, delivered, on horſeback, the following oration.

"If ever God gave victory to a juſt quarrel; if ever he aided war for the tuition of a kingdom or country, or ever ſuccoured them that fought for the relief of the poor innocents oppreſſed by tyranny, then, no doubt my friends and fellow ſoldiers, but that this day he will give us a complete victory. For if we conſider for what, and againſt whom we fight, we may not doubt but that God himſelf will fight for us. The thing, which we are here ready to try by ſword, is the liberty of the land, from under the uſurpation and yoke of a tyrant; and he, againſt whom we draw ſword, is the monſter (for I may not call him man

man) which feareth neither God, laws, justice, nor humanity; an homicide, a murderer of his own kindred, a destroyer of the nobility, a maul to his subjects, and a fire-brand to the whole kingdom, whom just vengeance craveth to have quenched. And consider, I pray you, who be of his band, even such as, by murder and untruth to their kindred and country, have got wrongful possession of our rightful inheritance, letting your wives weep, and orphans wander to seek their livelihood where they can get it, whose tears I doubt not cry in the ears of the Lord, who will I doubt not punish these malefactors either with prick of conscience, cowardly to fly, or deliver themselves into our hands without battle. Consider further, I pray you, that in yonder great CHAP. 21.

CHAP. 21. battle are men brought more for fear than for love, by force compelled, and not willingly assembled; persons that desire more the destruction than the life of their captain. And finally, a multitude, whereof the most part be our friends, and the least part for him that leads them; and surely it stands in suspence, whether the malice of the soldiers towards their general, or his fear conceived against them be the greater. For this is a rule infallible, that is ill men covet to destroy the good, so God appointeth the good men to confound the ill: and if it be true that clerks preach, that one is to be hated, and the other beloved, who then can spare yonder tyrant Richard duke of Gloucester, untruly calling himself king, that hath broken both the laws of God and man, in the blood

blood of his brother, the murther of his nephews, the death of his wife, the ſlander of his own mother, and the baſtardizing of his brethren. If you have not heard, yet I read that Tarquin the proud, for the rape of Lucretia, loſt the kingdom of Rome, yet was not his fact ſo deteſtable as Nero's, who ſlew his own mother, to behold the place of his conception, but yonder uſurper is both theſe perſons in one; a Nero in murther of his young nephews and in defaming the womb of his own conception; and a Tarquin, intending to defile, and carnally to know, his own niece, under pretext of holy matrimony, which lady, you witneſs, I have ſworn ſhall be my wife. This is the quarrel for which we are here this day aſſembled, and for whoſe equity we crave CHAP. 21.

CHAP. 21.

crave God to be judge. A good beginning of his protection we have already ſeen, treaſons laid for us in Britain, the danger of ſeas, and our ſafe arrival unto this place. Not hunted by any, but rather ourſelves hunting after that furious boar: who this day, and in this place, is ſo entangled in his own toil, as his crooked tuſks ſhall not be able to gnaw the cord of his ſnare aſunder; nor himſelf have power to free himſeif from his purſuers; whoſe javelins (I doubt not) ſhall be dyed in the blood of this filthy ſwine, and ſhall well rid the world of an ugly hog-backed monſter. Which thing to accompliſh, let us remember, that victory is not gotten by multitude, but by manhood; the ſmaller number we be, the greater is our glory, if we vanquiſh;

vanquiſh; if vanquiſhed, fretting time ſhall never cenſure our memories, that died to free ourſelves and nation, from the oppreſſion of an uſurping tyrant; and this I aſſure you, that for ſo juſt a cauſe, you ſhall find me rather a dead carrion upon the cold ground, than a carpet-priſoner, kept alive for reproach. Advance therefore forward like true hearted Engliſhmen, diſplay your banner in defence of your country, get the day and be conquerors, loſe the battle and be villains. God and St. George give us a happy ſucceſs."

CHAP. 21.

Richmond had no ſooner concluded, than he made a motion to the left, to avoid a moraſs, which divided the two armies, and by this means prudently ſecured his right flank, and gained

CHAP. 21. gained the ſun on his back, while it ſhone full in the face of the enemy.—Richard, ſeeing this motion, commanded the trumpets to announce his readineſs for battle. The bloody conflict then began by a general diſcharge of arrows; after which they advanced to cloſe combat. The lord Stanley perceiving that the duke of Norfolk extended his line to the left, intending to ſurround the enemy, ſuddenly joined the right wing of Richmond's army, to ſuſtain the attack; which Norfolk perceiving, he made a halt to cloſe his files, which had been too much extended; this occaſioned ſome few moments ceſſation in the fight.—However Norfolk ſoon advanced to the charge again with more fury than before, and would doubtleſs have coſt Richmond dear had it not been for Sir

William

William Stanley, with three thouſand men, who at that juncture flanked the right of the King's lines ſo critically, that they were driven back upon the main body; but the duke of Norfolk having ſtrengthened the ſecond rank, a dreadful carnage enſued. Richard, in the mean time, finding himſelf deceived by the conduct of the two Stanleys, and deſirous to animate his ſoldiers, by his own valour, advanced to the front of his lines, and at the head of a choſen body of men ruſhed upon the enemy, where he perceived Henry, in hopes of deciding, by his death, the fate of the battle and his kingdom. Such were his extraordinary ſpirits, activity, and ſtrength, that nothing could withſtand his fury, in opening a way to his rival. In this deſperate attempt he ſlew Sir William Brandon, Henry's

CHAP. 21.

CHAP. 21. Henry's ſtandard-bearer, and unhorſed Sir John Cheney, an officer of diſtinguiſhed ſtrength, and dexterity.—— Henry was more aſtoniſhed than willing to engage with ſo powerful an adverſary, but there was no retreating. Richard called aloud to him to pay the forfeit of his treaſon, and rebellious invaſion of his realm; he preſſed on him with a fury that added terror to his words: all Henry ſeemed ſolicitous to do was to keep him at his ſword's point, which he continued to do till his own ſoldiers ſaved him from the ſeeming deſtruction. While Richard was thus nobly employed, the reſt of his troops grew diſpirited, and inactive, at the conduct of the two Stanleys: the atchievements of their glorious leader were in vain diſplayed to animate. The earl of Northumberland's men, by their commander's orders,

orders, threw down their arms, which gave Richmond's forces leave to mow down whole ranks of royaliſts, who ſtood deſtitute of reſolution. At length the rout of Richard's forces were inevitable: on all ſides they gave way. In vain, in the moſt imminent danger did Richard attempt to rally troops given up to confuſion and wild deſpair. Where'ere he came, the lifeleſs bodies of his braveſt followers were preſented to his view; yet not all the horrors of an almoſt general carnage, nor the flight of thoſe, who might have ſaved perhaps his kingdom, and his life, no ways abated the military ardour of Richard.——He, ſcorning to outlive the diſgrace of being defeated, or falling alive into the hands of his bitter enemies, took the deſperate reſolution of running into the

CHAP. 21.

CHAP. 21. the midſt of Richmond's army, where, having performed ſuch exploits that would have done honour to the greateſt ſoldier the world ever produced, he fell, overpowered by numbers, who ſacrificed their reſentment to baſeneſs of the fouleſt kind. For, when they beheld him falling unarmed and helpleſs, they pierced his body with ſuch avidity, that its appearance was more like a maſs of blood, than a human coarſe!

Never was the brutality of a ſavage band more diſplayed than in the revengeful actions of Richmond's ſoldiers: the liveleſs body of a fallen monarch, who, in this final conteſt, had ſingly braved the efforts of a conquering army, and for a time diſperſed aſtoniſhed ranks, was now ſuffering a

thouſand

thouſand indignities too ſhocking to relate, from men who diſgraced the name of ſoldier! Men who ought to have revered his noble valour. But alas! humanity was not tempered with this victory. Here was no tender, ſympathetic feeling, which adds luſtre to a worthy conqueror; no Richmond to protect the royal body from inſults of the fouleſt nature! CHAP. 21.

About one thouſand of the royaliſts fell, on this occaſion; the moſt conſiderable number of whom died in the flight. On the ſide of the conquerors not more than one hundred fell, of whom Sir William Brandon was the moſt conſiderable. On the ſide of the vanquiſhed, beſides Richard, there were among the ſlain the duke of Norfolk, the lord Ferrars of Chartley,

CHAP. 21. Sir Richard Ratcliff, and Sir Robert Brackenbury; Sir William Cateſby, c one of King Richard's chief counſellors, with two others of Richard's confidents, fell into the hands of the victors, and were beheaded at Leiceſ-
1485. ter, 2 days after the battle, Aug 24.

After Henry had ſolemnly thanked God, upon his knees, for this victory, the crown of Richard being found in the field, was placed on the head of Henry by the lord Stanley, who was immediately ſaluted by the whole army with, long live Henry the ſeventh!

Richard's body being ſtripped naked, all tugged and torn, „ and not o much as a clout left to cover his ſhame," (ſays

c The betrayer of Lord Haſtings, ſee page 51.

(ſays Holinſhead) was truſſed behind a purſuvant at arms, like a hog, or calf, his head and arms hanging on one ſide the horſe, and his legs on the other, all beſprinkled with mire and blood; & was ſo carried to Leiceſter amidſt an aſtoniſhed multitude, who had beheld him but the day before in all the pageantry of kingly ſtate, but now a wretched ſpectacle of human inſtability. The body was publickly expoſed, for two days, in this unſeemly manner, and then buried, without any funeral ſolemnity, in the Grey-Friars Church, in Leiceſter, *d* after

CHAP. 21.

d There is great reaſon to ſuppoſe that the body of Richard was expoſed in the great Hall-houſe, belonging to the Corporation, in Blue-boar-lane, which was blown up at the grand rebellion.——The Franciſcan or Grey-Friars, ſtood on the ſouth ſide of St. Martin's church-yard,

CHAP. 21. after a reign of two years. Henry afterwards erected in the ſame church a coſtly monument to his memory, but at the ſuppreſſion of religious houſes in his ſon's reign, the Church being about to be deſtroyed, the monument was wantonly pulled down, and broke to pieces by the inhabitants of Leiceſter; who not ſatisfied with offering

yard, and was founded by Simon Montfort. The fine ſpacious ground which belonged to it was purchaſed, about 30 years ago, to build thereon; out of which was made a ſtreet called the New-Street, and ſome good houſes, towards the north and ſouth. When the workmen were ſinking the cellars there, I remember, though very young, that the human bones which they found attracted the attention of the people in Leiceſter. In ſome places perfect ſkeletons were found, ſingularly large, which muſt have lain there at leaſt, 200 years.—William Gyles was the laſt Warden of this Houſe, who with ſeven Brethren, ſurrendered it to the King, Nov. 10, 1539.

ing this indignity to his memory, dug up his remains, and as wantonly triumphed over his bones, which they carried through Leiceſter to Bowbridge, where they contemptuouſly buried them, either by throwing them into the water, or depoſiting them in water's bank there. This bridge ſtands on the weſt-ſide of the town. The ſtone coffin that contained the body was a long time uſed as a drinking trough for horſes, at the White-horſe inn, in Gallowtree-gate; where part of it was to be ſeen about 60 years ago. That part of the ſtone coffin which contained the head and ſhoulders, was made concave for that purpoſe.—By this deciſive battle ended the long and bloody conteſt between the houſes of York and Lancaſter, in

CHAP. 21.

CHAP. 21. which an hundred thouſand Engliſhmen had periſhed. *e*

JOHN HERDEWICK,

A man of ſmall ſtature, but of great valour, (ſays Burton) was lord of the manor of Lindly in this county. He rendered

e If we can for a moment forget the cruel unlawful methods this king took to obtain the crown of theſe realms from the rightful heir; or caſt a veil over thoſe actions which have branded his name with infamy, and then examine his conduct as a King, we ſhall find his adminiſtration conducted by the rules of equity and juſtice. The laws which he enacted, and the regulations which he cauſed to take place, during his ſhort reign, were wiſe and ſalutary. He poſſeſſed a ſound judgment, great penetration, a fund of natural eloquence, and an undaunted courage; all which might have conſpired to have made the reign of his Nephew happy. But alas! ambition, and the horrid deeds it created in his breaſt, have conſpired to brand his name with—Monſter!

rendered Richmond a particular ser- CHAP. 21.
vice at the battle of Boſworth. The Earl lying at Atherſton, a market-town about three miles from Lindly, the night before the battle, Herdwick came to him and offered his ſervice with the followers he had collected, which was readily accepted by the Earl, as they were chiefly horſemen, whom Richmond was in great wants of. He alſo became his ſure guide; and by his judgment and knowledge of the country, procured him the advantage of ground, wind, and ſun, requiſites very favourable to Richmond. Whether he was rewarded for this particular ſervice, hiſtory does not inform us.

MARKET-BOSWORTH,

Is famous in hiſtory on account of

CHAP. 21. the above related battle, altho' not fought within the boundaries of its pariſh, but on account of its being the neareſt place of note to it. In the moor where the fight was, there have been diſcovered, at different periods ſince, pieces of armour, weapons, and other warlike accoutrements, by digging and ploughing. The arrow heads which have been found, were remarkable long and large. In the ſame place the little eminence is to be ſeen, whereon Richmond harrangued his followers before the battle.—In Dadlington Church-yard, near here, were buried a great many of the ſoldiers bodies who were ſlain in that fight.

Sir SIMON DIGBY,

FROM an ancient & honourable family

in this county, was a truſty and va- CHAP. 21.
liant follower of Richmond, who with his 6 brothers fought valiantly for him, when he obtained the crown from the uſurper Richard; he was for his valour rewarded by being advanced to great places of truſt and profit in the ſucceeding reign, and continued in favour till his death, which happened in the reign of Henry the eighth. The lords Digby and Sherburn were his grand-children, by his eldeſt ſon Reginald.

A FATAL SICKNESS.

An infectious diſorder prevailed in Leiceſter, and other parts of the kingdom, the laſt year of this reign, which was called the ſweating ſickneſs, that carried off a great number of the inhabitants of Leiceſter.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

Henry VII.——Black-Friars, &c.

HENRY VII.

WAS crowned at Weſtminſter, October 30th, 1485. He married the princeſs Elizabeth, eldeſt daughter of Edward IV. by which the houſes of Lancaſter and York were united. But it appears from his ideas of faction, that he never cordially loved her, though a virtuous and amiable conſort. He eaſily defeated an inſurrection raiſed by the Yorkiſts in ſupporting Lambert Symnel, who perſonated Richard duke of York, ſecond ſon of Edward the fourth, whom the people were perſuaded had eſcaped from the tower, and not murdered as above related. Next

Next a perſon called Perkin War-CHAP. 22.
beck perſonated the duke of York, but he was taken priſoner andexecuted.— This prince died in the 53d year of his age, and 24th of his reign. *f*

1503.

BLACK FRIARS.

THE Auguſtine or Black Friars, in Leiceſter, obtained a grant from the Corporation, the 21ſt of Henry 7th, of a common for two cows upon their grounds, on condition that the prior of this houſe ſhould pay them twenty ſhillings,

f Henry did not want ſagacity and penetration, but his inſatiable thirſt after riches, and the badneſs of his heart, made him capable of crimes that would have blackened thoſe of his predeceſſor. He has been praiſed by ſome for being devout, but his actions beſpeak him poſſeſſed only of the externals of religion. He died almoſt univerſally hated by his ſubjects.

CHAP. 22. ſhillings, and engage that the religious there ſhould pray for that body for ever.

In the 23d Henry 8th, the company of ſhoemakers alſo obtained the benefit of their prayers, on condition of their paying to that houſe ten ſhillings per annum, excluſive of their uſual offerings and duties. *g*

CHAP.

g This houſe was ſituated in a place now called Bruce's-Friars, weſt of Leiceſter. The building is entirely eraſed, except an arch called Bow-bridge that belonged to it. One would imagine that this arch was made for the uſe of the Friars, as a foot-path over it, if it were not for a remnant of an apparent, ancient wall at one end of it: but it is not at all unlikely, that this was a work of later date, erected to prevent a communication with the grounds on the other ſide of the back-river.—The foundation of this houſe is diſcoverable in ſeveral place

CHAP. XXIII.

Henry VIII.——Wolsey.——Leicester-Abby.——Drayton.——Fitzherbert.-Turpin.—Coal-Orton.—Lubsthorpe.

HENRY VIII.

SON of the last king, succeeded to the crown on the death of his father. He soon became popular by declaring that he would repay the sums illegally

places a little beneath the surface of the ground. A well, near here, retains the name of Augustin to this day.

The White Friars, which has been often confounded with this, was situate near the North-gate, Leicester; the ground which belonged to it, now bears the name of Friars.—Neither the magnitude of the buildings of these two religious retreats nor their founders names, have been handed down to posterity.

CHAP. 23. illegally obtained by his father, and by puniſhing the inſtruments, of thoſe extortions, Epſom and Dudley with death. He obtained the title of *Defender of the faith* by writing a book againſt Luther. He next applied to the pope, for a divorce from his firſt queen, Catharine, but the pope's legates, Wolſey and Campeigo, not favouring his deſigns, proved the ruin of the former. Archbiſhop Cranmer however pronounced the ſentence of divorce and the validity of the king's marriage with Anne Bullen. This queen was divorced and executed, *b* to make way for his marriage with lady Jane Seymour, who died in child-birth.

b He charged this queen with proſtituting her virtue: She ſolemnly denied the charge in her laſt moments, and died with the calmneſs of reſignation and innocence.

birth. The king then married the sister to the duke of Cleves, whom he divorced in six months, to marry the lady Catharine Howard, who was sacrificed to his lust upon tower-hill to obtain the hand of his last queen lady Catharine Parr. CHAP. 23.

During these changes in his domestic concerns he obtained, by the means of a pliant parliament, immense riches from the religious establishments of this kingdom. Colleges, Churches, Monasteries, and even Hospitals were compelled to yeild their external and internal property, given by the most amiable of mankind for wise and salutary purposes, to serve his lust, his ostentation, or his avarice.—This king's death happened in the thirty-eighth year of his reign.

CARDINAL

CHAP. 23.

CARDINAL WOLSEY.

FROM an obſcure birth, but by rare abilities, aſcended the higheſt pinnacle of royal favour. Early, in this reign, he was introduced to young Henry, by Fox biſhop of Wincheſter, purpoſely that he might rival the earl of

i Henry was a prince of great valour, and not deſtitute of virtue. He was regarded as a great prince among foreign nations, and illuſtrious in the eyes of the vulgar in this, for his magnificence and perſonal bravery; but a liſt of his vices would diſhonour human nature. Injuſtice, cruelty, pride, and bigotry, were in the catalogue. He beheaded or hanged thoſe who adhered to the pope's ſupremacy. He condemned thoſe to the flames who diſputed the doctrine of tranſubſtantiation. He ſuppreſſed the religious houſes, to the number of 1148, and ſeized their lands amounting to 183,707l. 13. per annum, to ſupply his extravagances. Upon the whole he ſeems to have been a tyrant of no ſmall magnitude.

of Surry, who had ſupplanted Fox as a favourite to the king. Wolſey, by his ſingular addreſs, ſoon eclipſed them both, and reigned unrival'd in the eſteem of majeſty: his adroit conduct ſo perfectly ſuited the foibles of his royal maſter, that preferments, riches, and power, which flowed in upon him, in a rapid ſucceſſion, ſoon rendered him eminently illuſtrious. He ſucceeded to the archbiſhoprick of York, was raiſed to the dignity of a Cardinal, conſtituted lord high Chancellor of England, commiſſioned to be *Legate a Latere*, and held the rich biſhopricks of Durham and Wincheſter in commendum; together with the mitred abby of St. Albans: and farmed the biſhopricks of Bath and Wells, Hereford and Worceſter, ſo that he was undoubtedly the greateſt pluraliſt in CHAP. 23.

CHAP. 23. the world. Some have asserted that his annual revenues exceeded those of the Crown.—This magnificent prelate also, for a time, directed the whole administration of public affairs. He had in his retinue eight hundred servants, among whom were ten lords, fifteen knights, and forty esquires.—But his ambitious soul was not satiated here, he coveted, and he would have obtained, the popedom, had it not been for the emperor Charles V. At length, however, a reverse of fortune cast him from his exalted precipice, amid' the sufferings of an humbling degradation.

Wolsey not readily complying with the lascivious Henry's will, in the divorce of queen Catharine, occasioned his once pliant master to depress him with

with indignities, and ſtrip him at once of all his civil employments, holding him up as a ſpectacle of debaſement to his triumphant enemies. In this change from human he ſplendor was commanded to retire, ſinking under the oppreſſion of wounded pride, and ſhaded with indignity, to his See of York: thither he went drooping, knowing it to be in vain to oppoſe the determined will of Henry. But here the perſecuting hand of malice followed him: the earl of Northumberland received orders, ſoon after, to arreſt him for high treaſon, and to conduct him immediately to London, where he was to ſuffer the debaſement of a trial in a place where he had lived in the greateſt ſplendor of church and ſtate oſtentation. CHAP. 23.

CHAP. 23. The unhappy Cardinal was now unable to ſupport himſelf under the torturing reflection of his fallen ſtate, and the certainty of the death he was doomed to ſuffer. He journeyed with a painful agitated mind, unable to ſupport himſelf under the fatigue of his travel, which brought on a fatal diſorder, ſo that he with difficulty reached Leiceſter-Abbey. *j* The high eſtimation Wolſey was in among the religious, and they in Leiceſter-Abby hearing of his approach, occaſioned the Abbot and Monks there to meet him with much rev erence. They received him reſpectfully at the gate leading to the Abby, where after thanking them, with the calmneſs and ſincerity

j On Saturday the 26th of Nov. 1530.—— Cavendiſh, his friend, imagined he had taken poiſon.

CHAP. 23.

ſincerity of a dying man, for their civility, he ſaid, "Father Abbot, I am come to lay my bones among you." As it was with much difficulty he ſat his horſe the laſt ſtage thither, he immediately took to his bed, from whence he never after aroſe. A little before he expired he deſired Sir Wm. Kingſton, Conſtable of the Tower, who had him in charge, to be admitted into his bed-chamber, that he might bear teſtimony to his dying words, which were as follow:

"Sir, (ſaid Wolſey) "I watch but God's pleaſure to render up my poor ſoul to him. I pray you have me heartily commended unto his royal majeſty, and beſeech him, on my behalf, to call to his princely remembrance all matters that have been be-

CHAP. 23. tween us, from the beginning, and the progreſs; and eſpecially between good Queen Catharine and him, then ſhall his Grace's conſcience know whether I have offended him, or not. He is a prince of moſt royal carriage, and hath a princely heart; but rather than he will miſs or want any part of his will, he will endanger one half of his kingdom. I do aſſure you, I have often kneeled before him ſometimes three hours together, to diſſuade him from his will and appetite, but could not prevail. Had I (continued he) ſerved God as diligently as I have ſerved the king, he would not have given me over in my grey hairs. But this is the juſt reward I muſt receive for my diligent pains and ſtudy, not regarding the ſervice of my God, but my prince. Therefore let me adviſe you,

you, if you be one of the privy coun- CHAP. 23.
cil, as by your wiſdom you are fit, take heed what you put into the king's head; for you can never put it out again." This ſpeech was pathetically delivered, to Sir William Kingſton, accompanied with a very earneſt recommendation to Henry, to ſuppreſs Lutheraniſm, and all other hereſies.— This concluded, he, in a few minutes after, expired, on tueſday the 29th of November, 1530, *k* aged 59 years.

The body of the Cardinal grew ſo offenſive on wedneſday, the day ſucceeding his death, that they were obliged to bury it that night: prior to which, after a conſultation among the

k Fides. Rapin ſays 30th, and Burnet the 28th of November.

CHAP. 23. religious, in the Abby, the Abbot, chose to inform the Mayor of Leicester, and his brethren the Aldermen, of all the circumstances that had happened concerning his death; and likewise desired their advice and concurrence respecting the burial of so great a man. The Mayor and his brethren, after being informed of the particulars of that event, attended the funeral in the evening with their formalities and in their uniforms. The Abbot and the Monks also being desirous of testifying their respects to one who had not only raised the nation to an envied eminence, but who had opposed, with rigour, the emerging reformation, appeared on the occasion with the utmost solemnity of their religious order.—The Corpse being brought to the grand entrance into the Abby in a plain

plain wooden ſhell or coffin, in which CHAP. 23.
was placed a Mitre, Ring, Paul, and Crucifix, the proceſſion began thence to the Abby-Chapel, where the brethren in their monaſtic habits performed ſeveral pieces of ſolemn vocal muſic, ſuitable to the occaſion, at the interment.

It has been a received opinion, in Leiceſter, that there was buried with him a conſiderable quantity of riches, which has cauſed the inhabitants of that place, at various times, to dig for them. The error has manifeſtly ariſen from the emblems of his dignities accompanying his body to the earth; which if valuable would not have been ſuffered long to remain there, as even the bowels of the earth were forced to yield their valuable contents

to

CHAP. 23. to the avaricious Henry's commiſſioners, ſoon after.

The Cardinal, when poſſeſſed of the multitudinous ſplendor and favour of his prince, had engaged one Benedetto, a ſtatuary in Florence, to make a ſumptuous monument of his own image, to perpetuate his memory; for which the ſtatuary had received, the year before his death, four thouſand, two hundred, and fifty ducats, for that part of it he had then finiſhed; but at his death the king ſeized the unfiniſhed piece of ſculpture, and called it his own; the deſign being ſo glorious, ſays an hiſtorian, that it far exceeded that of the king's father's, Henry the 7th.

In the life of Wolſey we have an eminent

eminent leſſon of the uncertainty of CHAP. 23.
ſublunary exaltation!—If we wiſh to be acquainted with his oſtentatious portrait, we cannot fail to behold it beſt with the moſt ſplendid jewels: by which he emerged from amid' the clouds of poverty, to the higheſt pinnacle of power. But excellent as were his mental endowments, vanity, and perhaps avarice, were the moſt conſpicuous tints in this diverſified picture.

LEICESTER ABBY.

BEFORE we proceed to the hiſtory of this place, and the other religious houſes in the county, which were ſuppreſſed in this and the ſucceeding reign, it may be neceſſary to give a ſhort narration of a monaſtic life, &c.

The

CHAP. 23. The word *monachus* is derived from the Greek, applicable to thoſe who lead a life of ſolitude; but it is difficult to determine who was the firſt that voluntarily retired from the world, alienated from its cuſtoms and pleaſures, to lead a life of gloom and contemplation. Some have judged that the prophet Samuel was the firſt, others have aſcribed its origin to Helias and Helyſeus, the miſerable cottagers, who dwelt near the river Jordan. Be that as it may, we are ſenſible that St. Mark the Evangeliſt, St. John the Baptiſt, Paul the Hermit, [l] St. Anthony, St. Hilarion, St. Baſil, and Hierome, were men, who prefering the ſweets of ſolitude to the chequered

[l] He to avoid Decius's perſecution, betook himſelf to a ſolitary wilderneſs, where he lived an alien to the world 93 years.

ed ſcenes of a fluctuating world, with- CHAP. 23.
drew themſelves from human ſociety, to enjoy, with more purity, the humble, the pious acts of meditation.—But moſt of theſe holy Fathers were ſubject to no other inſtitutions, but the guidance of an inoffenſive mind; in the ſolitary wilderneſs, in the cave, or on the river's brink, prayers, tears, and frequent faſtings, manifeſted their perfect obedience to the will only of HEAVEN.

St. Anthony lived in the deſerts of Thebes, in Epypt, where he built a religious retreat for himſelf and diſciples; and perhaps was the firſt who inſtructed in this way of holineſs. He with his followers fed entirely upon bread and water, and ſpent their time wholly upon prayers and meditation.

About

CHAP. 23. About the year 526, Benedictus Nurſinus, a man remarkable for his ſanctity, about 166 years after St. Anthony's death, gathered together a number of religious wanderers, and ſettled under ſome rules at Caſſinum, an ancient town in Italy. But after him Baſil Biſhop of Ceſarea, in Cappadocea, being famous for his ſingular piety, obliged all who came for holy orders, to vow chaſtity and poverty, and obedience to their ſuperiors. He alſo aſſigned to the monks a particular habit, and form of adoration to the Deity; a ſlender diet, ſtated times of faſtings, and other certain rules, were his injunctions. This order in a ſhort time became very numerous; from whom ſprang many other orders under various denominations.

The

CHAP. 23.

The Benedictine monks were the first who made any figure in England; they were sent here by pope Gregory about the year 595.

There were scarcely any other order than this in England before the conquest, by the Normans; but afterwards they divided and subdivided, under numerous appellations.

Leicester-Abby was founded for the order of Black-Canons or Augustines. This order had its name from St. Augustin, Bishop of Hippo, a man famous for his early and singular piety. He strongly enforced the love of poverty, obedience, and chastity. He is called the law-giver of very many religious orders.

The habit of this order was a white coat

CHAP. 23. coat and linen ſurplis under a black cloak, with a hood covering their head and neck, which reached to the ſhoulders. They wore alſo a doublet, breeches, white ſtockings, and ſhoes or ſlippers; and when they walked out they wore a black corner'd cap or broad hat. Their crowns were ſhaven, but not ſo much as ſome other monks. *m*

Beſides the founder of this Abby, Robert Boſſue, earl of Leiceſter, *n* the following, among others, were benefactors: King Henry the 4th, Henry duke of Lancaſter, Ranulph earl of Cheſter, William Anenell, Simon Eſlop, Rægineli Baſſet, Hugh de Arden, Margaret de Quiney, Roger de Quiney,

m Polyd. Virg.

n See vol. 1, pages 152 and 159.

A Black-Canon.

BRITISH
MUSEUM

Quincy, Ernold de Bois, Anhilell Ma-CHAP. lory, Reiſe Turnill, Thomas Lathbury, Thomas Erdington, Robert Colley, William Aſton, &c. &c. 23.

This Monaſtery, beſides being largely endowed with moſt of the churches in and about Leiceſter, and ſundry lands, rents, and tithes at Burton, Segrave, Aſerby, &c. &c. it had liberty of procuring fuel and keeping cattle in divers other manors. Amicia, wife of the founder, gave two bucks annually to this houſe, one on the aſſumption, and the other on the nativity of the virgin Mary. Margaret de Quincy gave alſo a buck annually out of the foreſt of Charnwood, & land at Sheepſhead: and Robert de Quincy, her husband, confirmed theſe grants and added the tenth of all hay ſold in

CHAP. 23. Acle and Wyffeley, and the right ſhoulders of all the deer killed in the park of Acle.

The firſt Abbot of this houſe was Richard——admitted the year after its foundation, A. D. 1144.—2 William de Katewyke was admitted A. D. 1167. The ſame year the founder died and was buried in the abby-church. This church or chapel was then newly built, at the expenſe of Petronell, daughter of Hugh Grantmeiſnell, baron of Hinckley, and wife of Robert Blanchmains, ſon of the founder of the Abby. This lady is memorable for her piety: A long plait of her hair was preſerved in the chapel as a curious relic, a long time after her death: ſhe made it in that form to be uſed with a pulley to draw up

up the great lamp in the Quire, where she was buried.—3 William de Broke was admitted A. D. 1173. This abbot resigned, being made abbot of the Cistercians.—4 Paul—was admitted A. D. 1186.—5 William Pepyn was admitted A. D. 1205.—6—Osbert was admitted A. D. 1224.—7 Matthias—was admitted A. D. 1229. 8 Alen de Chestreham was admitted A. D. 1235.—9 Robert Formetyn was admitted A. D. 1244.—10 Henry Rothley was admitted A. D. 1247. 11 William Schepishered was admitted 1270.—12 William Malverne was admitted A. D. 1291.—13 Richard Towers was admitted A. D. 1317.—14 Wm. Cloune was admitted 1345. o

CHAP. 23.

In

o The abbots before his time sat as spiritual Lords in parliament; but he procured his successors an exemption from that custom —This monastery was also exempt from episcopal jurisdiction.

CHAP. 23. In this Abbot's time a violent diſpute happened between him and the inhabitants of Belgrave, a pleaſant village near this abby, about the boundaries of the abby grounds; at or near the Stocking.——Sometime in the year 1357, the inhabitants of Belgrave aſſembled themſelves together, and with ſome aſſiſtance they had procured, they went in the night time and deſtroyed the fences which had been newly erected there; and then endeavoured, by raiſing mounds of earth, digging deep trenches, ſtopping the paſſage of a bridge leading to the abby, and otherwiſe barricading, to prevent carriages and the uſual proviſions going thither; which proceedings were exceedingly prejudicial to the monaſtery. Upon a report of this outrage being made to the king, Special Commiſſioners

oners were appointed to try and punish the offenders. Twenty-five of the inhabitants of Belgrave were indicted and found guilty of the offence; but by the interceſſion of ſome gentlemen of character and fortune, they were diſmiſſed with moderate fines, upon a promiſe of never offending in the like manner for the future: the two principals in this buſineſs, John and Stephen Laurence, however, were compelled to make good the damages done to the roads, excluſive of their fines.——15 William Kirby was admitted abbot A. D. 1377.—16 Philip Repyndon was admitted A. D. 1394.[p]

17

[p] He was ſome time a warm and able advocate of Wickliff's doctrine, but his views, we may conjecture, were of a different caſt to the Reformer's; for he afterwards recanted and became a powerful oppoſer of the reformation, for

CHAP. 23. 17 Richard Rothele was admitted A. D. 1405.—18 William Sadington was admitted A. D. 1420.—19 John Pomery was admitted A. D. 1442. 20 John Schepiſhead was admitted A. D. 1474.—21 Gilbert Mancheſter was admitted A. D. 1485.—22 John Penney was admitted 1496, who, after preſiding 13 years was made biſhop of Bangor, and was ſo much in favour that he continued abbot alſo till he was tranſlated to the See of Carliſle A. D. 1509.

Notwithſtanding his elevation he was ſo much attached to this abby and his brethren there, that when he was at liberty from his epiſcopal duty, he

for which he was rewarded with the biſhoprick of Lincoln, and made a Cardinal by Gregory the 13th.

he almoſt conſtantly dwelt among them in that religious retreat. q—23 Richard Pexal was next admitted A. D. 1509.—24 John Bouchier the laſt Abbot of this Abby was admitted A. D. 1534. CHAP. 23.

This Abbot, like many others, at firſt gave way to Henry the eighth's will, by ſubſcribing to his ſupremacy over the church; but when he became perfectly acquainted with the intentions

q This biſhop was a conſiderable benefactor towards the rebuilding of St. Margaret's Church, Leiceſter; and he dying at the Abby he had ordered his body to be buried in that Church, in which an alabaſter monument was placed to his memory. This monument is ſtill remaining there, at near the eaſt end of the north Ile: it is a whole length figure of him in his epiſcopal habit; and ſeems to have been a work of no inferior merit.

CHAP. 23. intentions of that royal plunderer, he withſtood, with a manly reſolution, the general wreck of religious inſtitutions: for when he and the Canons were menaced by Henry's viſitors, they boldly refuſed to give up this Abby, till they were threatened, as was then cuſtomary, with being guilty of the foulеſt crimes, with beaſts and with each other. r

The following letter, written to Lord Cromwell by one of the commiſſioners, ſoon after the ſurrender of this Abby, will inform the reader of ſome particulars which cannot fail to be acceptable. "My

r While Henry was filling his coffers from theſe ſocieties of religious men, the moſt horrid tales of ſlander were publiſhed againſt them for the purpoſe of rendering them unamiable to the people, who would have oppoſed the rapid progreſs of religious theft had that been omitted.

" My moſt bounden Dutye remem- CHAP.
" bryd, this is to advertis youre good 23.
" Lordſhippe of the holy Eſtate of the
" late Monaſtery of Leyceſter, in the
" wiche we have taken the Surrender
" and feyne of thabbott and Convent,
" and the Writinges thereof be in
" my Cuſtodye. By your good Lord-
" ſhippes Goodnes towardes me I
" now ame in Poſſeſſion of the Houſe
" and all the Demeſnes wiche was
" unlett at the tyme of our Repare
" thether. We alſo founde the Houſe
" was indetty'd to the Kinges Heygh-
" nes wherof we make no reconinge
" of; and for the Diſcharge therof
" we have made Sale of the ſtoke and
" Store, with the Houſhold ſtuffe and
" Ornaments of the Churche, wiche
" amounte unto 228l. The Plate is
" on ſolde, wiche Maiſter Freman

CHAP. 23. " takith the charge of and is valuyd
" at by Weyght 190 Pounds. The
" Lead by Eſtymacion is valuyd at
" 1000l. the Bells at 88l. for the
" diſchargeyne of thabbott Convent
" and Servants of the ſeide Monaſtery
" there haithe beyne payde, as dothe
" apere more particularly by the
" Bouke we ſend your Lordſhippe,
" 149l. And for as moche as th Ab-
" bot hathe not receyvyd of us in
" redy mony but 20l. he hath re-
" quyride me to deſyer your Lord-
" ſhippe to be ſo good Lorde unto
" him, as he may have 20 Pounds or
" 20 Marks, the Church and Houſe
" remeynythe as yet undefacede, and
" in the Churche be many thynges to
" be made Sale of. For wiche that
" may pleſe your Lordſhippe to let
" me knowe yowre pleyſure; as well

" for

" for the further Sale to be made, as CHAP.
" for the defaſinge of the Chirche 23.
" & other ſuperfluous Byldinges wiche
" be abowt the Monaſtery, a hun-
" drithe Marks yerly will not ſuſteyne
" the Charges in reparing this Houſe,
" that all Byldinges be lett ſtande as
" your Lordſhippe ſhall knowe more
" hereafter. Thus I pray Jheſus
" longe to preſerve you in Helthe
" with much Honore.

" Written at the late Monaſtrey of
" Leyceſter the 29th Day of Auguſte,
" by your Lordſhippes moſt bownden
" Servante.

" Francis Cave."

At the time of the ſurrender of this Monaſtery, there remained in charge 3l. 6s. 8d. in Fees, and 32l. 19s. 4d. in annuities; and when the King had

CHAP. 23. finally ſeized the valuables of this Abby, and its large revenues, he ſettled penſions, for life, upon the following: John Bouchier laſt Abbot 200l. Richard Duckett 10l. John Buckſhame 6l. Richard Webbe, 6l. John Lacye 6l. Hugh Sheppey 5l. 6s. 8d. John Revell 5l. 6s. 8d. George King 5l. 6s. 8d. William Parmoter 5l. James Lawe 5l. and Tho. Weſtus 5l.

This Abby was afterwards given by patent to Mr. Cavendiſh *ſ* for his fidelity to Wolſey, by the king, who it

ſ This gentleman was a conſtant attendant upon the Cardinal Wolſey, as well in his proſperity as adverſity; the changes of fortune, which happened to his friend, made no unamiable impreſſion upon his virtuous, noble mind. He accompanied him alike in his diſgrace and in his affliction: and at laſt in the ſad hour of death, his eminent feelings manifeſted his love by a ſilent, friendly tear.

it is believed was exceedingly ſorry for the ſevere ſteps he had taken againſt the Cardinal.—Willis ſays that this Abby was given to the Marquis of Northampton A. D. 1551, 4th of Edward 6th. CHAP. 23.

In the time of queen Elizabeth the then earl of Huntingdon enjoyed it, but whether by purchaſe or not I have not learned. However, in the ſucceeding reign, James the firſt's, it returned to the Devonſhire family; and was the ſeat of the Counteſs of Devon till the civil war in king Charles' time. During that grand rebellion a party of the royaliſts, from the caſtle of Aſhby-de-la-zouch, under the command of Henry Haſtings, afterwards Ld. Loughborough, came & burnt it, which fire left little more remaining

CHAP. 23. than the walls. s Since which period the enervating hand of time has made hasty efforts to eraſe thoſe very remains.

s While the Counteſs of Devon reſided at this Abby, her gardener by digging, imagined he had made a diſcovery of Cardinal Wolſey's grave. But as the Rev. Mr. Cart converſed with that gardener's grandſon on this ſubject, my feelings, which ariſe from the reſpect I owe to his memory, dictate to me to give the reader that gentleman's words unmutilated, in preference to what I might be able to ſubſtitute.

"As to the great Cardinal Wolſey's Sepulchre the beſt account which I have met "with is from one Mr. John Haſloe, whoſe "Grandfather, Arthur Barefoot, was gardener to the Counteſs of Devonſhire, who "lived at the Abby before the civil war. He "tells me that the Church ſtood part of it in "what is now a little Garden, and the eaſt "end of it in the Orchard (which was formerly "called the new Garden) where his Grandfather with others digging found ſeveral "ſtone Coffins, the cavities of which did not "lye uppermoſt, but were inverted over the "Bodies.——That one of theſe was taken up "about 6 feet 1-h. long, 4 wide, and 2 feet "deep;

CHAP. 23.

The poor people in Leiceſter have been ſuffered alſo to make ſome feeble efforts towards its annihilation, by converting its ſtone into ſand, for ſale. But the only appartment which remained in its original ſtate has been nearly eraſed by more powerful hands, within the laſt year.—Can we ſay that its owner tore up the lead from the *Porter's-Lodge* to ſupply, like the ſand

" deep; that it ſeemed very ſound at firſt, but " when it was expoſed to the air ſoon mould- " ered away; that he obſerved that all of them " had a round hole about the middle of them " near 5 inches diameter, but for what end " he could not tell.—That among them he " diſcovered Cardinal Wolſey's (Mr. Haſloe " forgets by what means he knew it) which " the Counteſs would not ſuffer to be ſtirred " but ordered it to be covered again."——— It ſeems remarkable that the Cardinal's coffin ſhould be known among others, and the reaſon for why it was known ſhould be forgotten.— Theſe coffins I am apt to think were laid there long before Cardinal Wolſey's time: very likely they might be thoſe of the founder and benefactors.

CHAP. 23. women, the purſe of neceſſity?—No, he abounds in riches!—Was he like Henry the 8th, avaricious?—Say ye Lovers of *Antiquity!*

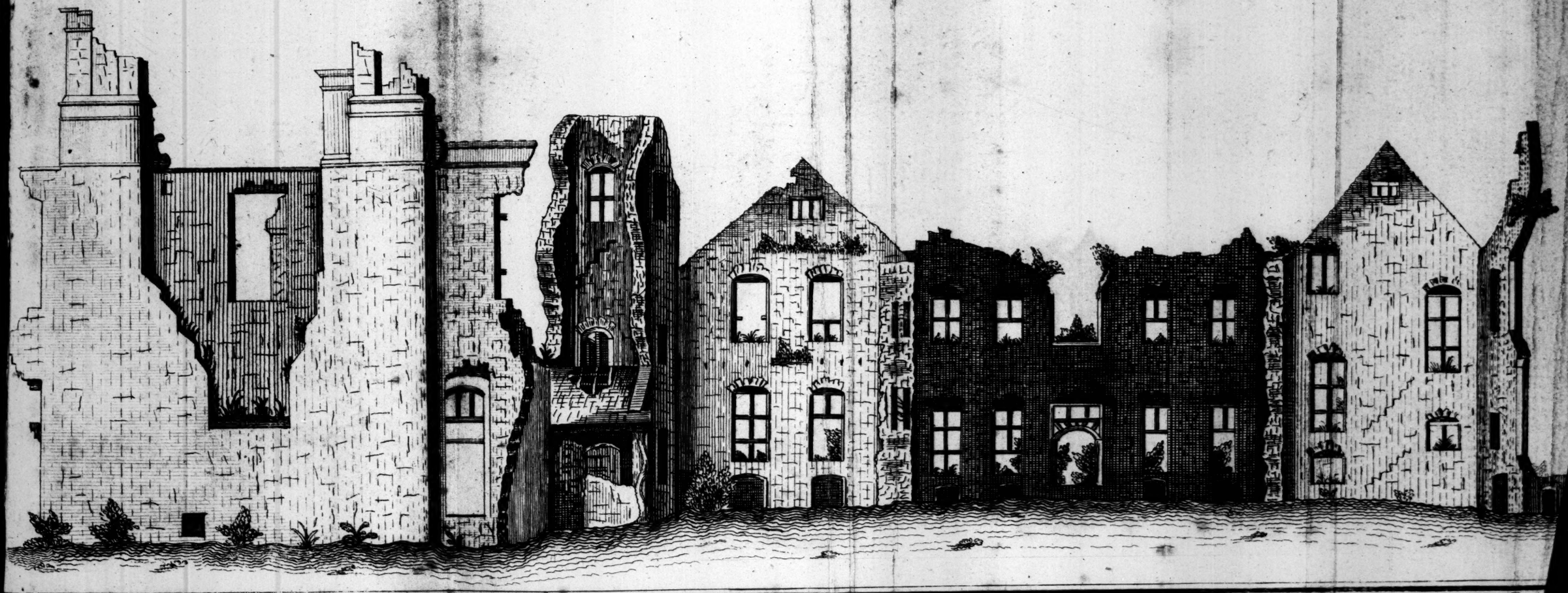
The ſubjoined etching, which is a view of the preſent ſtate of this ſtructure, will convey a juſt, though an aweful picture of the fate of human operations.

This Abby at the ſuppreſſion thereof was eſtimated to expend 1062l. per annum.

The ſituation of this Abby was not leſs eſteemed than the piety of its inhabiters has been; through a ſucceſſion of years they ſet a noble example of charity: the poor in Leiceſter, the neceſſitous wanderer, and the afflicted, have been often relieved from the bounty

Leicester Abbey.

1775.



Harosby, del. Ban

bounty of the religious in that place. The kings of England have repeatedly honoured this Abby with visits; and on their journies into the north have frequently lodged in it. Being erected upon an eminence, which commands a captivating prospect over a fine extensive meadow, upon the borders of Leicester, and near a river's brink, it could not fail to please a religious mind, retired from the noisy scenes of worldly existence.——The length of the remains of this Abby is about 80 yards; the pendant tops of which are, in some places, alarming to the beholder. The north and south walls which bounded the abby grounds, are in length above half a mile; the former is very little decayed, but the latter, in many places, is perished; the west one also is in the like condition.

CHAP. 23.

In

CHAP. 23. In the eaſt bounding wall ſtood the *Porter's-Lodge*, mentioned above, the entrance to which commands the front view of the abby ruins; there being now many fruit-trees planted before it prevented me taking a view of it, by their intercepting the ſight. To him who delights in viewing the venerable remains of antiquity, and, by experiencing the vanity of fleeting pleaſure, has ſome reliſh for retirement and meditation and retirement, will meet with very many occaſions here for contemplation: On the ſouth ſide cloſe to the remains of a bounding wall ſhaded with ivy, ſlowly moves the river *Soar* to an antiquated mill; the ſight of theſe added to that of the venerable ruins, and the ſanctity of the place, ſtrikes ſuch a beholder with a ſolemnity favourable to the dignity of his

his feelings!—Nor will the mind of him, who views the various religions of the world in a favourable light, be leſs ſtricken with reverence when he reflects on the pious acts of the Founders and Benefactors of ſuch religious retreats, notwithſtanding the *boaſted* reformation from error and ſuperſtition. Why ſhould an enthuſiaſtic zeal for proteſtantiſm lead us to contemn, ſo violently as ſome have done, a religion which, in all ages ſince the glorious Goſpel has been known, hath breathed an heavenly munificence? Why ſhould confined notions of the diſpenſations of heaven diſgrace a religion, that, we boaſt, hath ſo much purity, and check a contemplative mind from admiring the piety of thoſe venerable Fathers, who, copying Omnipotence in acts of mercy, and deſpiſing the luxuriant CHAP. 23.

CHAP. 23. luxuriant offers of a gay world, retired amid' ſcenes of ſolitude, abſtinence and prayer, to taſte the lonely ſweets of a ſolemn religious converſe with their GOD.

DRAYTON,

CALLED alſo Fenny Drayton, is mentioned by hiſtorians as being once an entire manor, but was divided by a law made in this reign. It alſo gave name to the anceſtors of the famous poet Drayton.

FITZHERBERT.

A. D. 1537, died Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, a learned Judge, much eſteemed for his gravity and the uprightneſs of his deciſions. He was the ſon of Ralph Fitzherbert, who married

married the heir general of the family of Marſhall, who enjoyed the manor of Upton, in this connty, in conjunction with the family of De-la-Ward. He wrote ſeveral books that were much eſteemed; among which was *De Natura Brevinm, an abridgment of the Laws*, and *a manual for a Juſtice of the Peace*. The village of Upton had formerly a chapel, but it is now decayed and gone. CHAP. 23.

RICHARD TURPIN,

Of a good family, was born in the village of Knapton, in this county; who was an officer in the Engliſh garriſon of Calais, in France, in this reign. He took the advantage of a peace, and wrote a Chronicle of his time there. This gentleman died upon his duty in that place.

COAL-

CHAP. 23.

COAL-ORTON.

THE ancient coal-mines in this place were ſet on fire by an accident, towards the beginning of this reign; and although every art, that man could deviſe, was tried to prevent that dreadful element from ſpreading its devaſtation in the bowels of the earth, yet it baffled every experiment till, as ſome ſay, the ſulphurous matter upon which it fed was conſumed—or till the Almighty bid its terrors ceaſe!

LUBSTHORP.

HERE was built, by the then earl of Huntingdon, a handſome Seat; but it being ſold by one of his ſucceſſor's, in the reign of James the firſt, to Sir George Manners, a predeceſſor of the duke of Rutland, it became

came ſoon into diſuſe and ruins.—CHAP. 23.
There was alſo a Chapel here, which is alſo periſhed.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

ERRATA.

Page 103, Line 3, for *coarſer* read *courſer*
----- 120, ---- 12, for *coarſe* read *corps*
——————— 16, for *liveleſs* read *lifeleſs*
----- 125, ---- 7, for *water's bank* read *the water's bank*
—— 139, ---- 5, for *he ſplendor* read *ſplendor he*

CONTENTS

BRITISH MUSEUM